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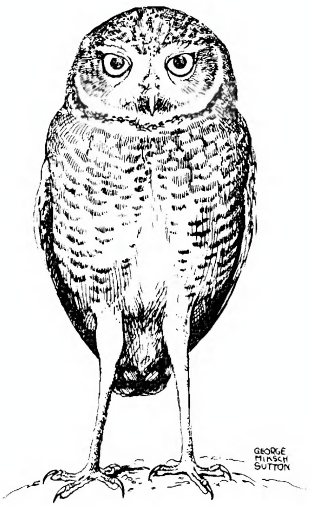
The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

XXXXIII MARCH, 1975 NUMBER 1



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1974 TREASURER'S REPORT

				Cash	Invest-ments	Accounts Payable	Current Account	Total Assets
Balance 1 January 1974				560.11	2,355.90	210.13		2,705.88
	RECEIPTS							
Member-ships	82	Active	$4	328.00				
	44	Active	5	220.00				
	12	Sustaining	6	72.00				
	13	Sustaining	7	91.00				
	24	Family Active	6	144.00				
	10	Family Active	7	70.00				
	5	Family Sustaining	8	40.00				
	2	Family Sustaining	9	18.00				
	8	Student	2	16.00				
	1	Student	3	3.00			1,002.00	
Subscrip-tions	6	Direct	$4.00	24.00				
	9	Direct	5.00	45.00				
	5	Agency	3.50	17.50				
	25	Agency	4.50	112.50				
	1	Foreign Agen.	3.75	3.75			202.75	
Miscel-laneous	Field Cards			24.05				
	Check-lists			42.00				
	Review Copies			4.00				
	Birds of the Black Hills			2.00				
	Loan of color slides			4.00				
	Gifts			10.00				
	Interest Earned			140.35			226.40	
	Total receipts			1,431.15			1,431.15	
	EXPENSES							
Review	Printing			635.51		301.35		
	Postage (incl.Newsltr)			80.00			1,016.86	
Officers' expen-ditures	R. G. Cortelyou			43.70				
	Mrs. Sigvald Jensen			16.00				
	Mrs. Clyde Johnson (Newsletters)			79.07			138.77	
Miscel-laneous	Fidelity bond			10.00				
	Dues Cards			26.15				
	Banquet ticket (An. meet.)			4.00			40.15	
	Total expenses			894.43		301.35	1,195.78	
	Gain for year							235.37
	Investments to cash			355.90	(355.90)			
	1973 Accs. Pay. paid			(210.13)		(210.13)		
Total 31 December 1974				1,242.60	2,000.00	301.35		2,941.25

THE SONG SPARROW AS A NEBRASKA BREEDING BIRD

One of the species of birds found in Nebraska apparently has undergone a range expansion in recent years, or has merely been overlooked as a breeding bird because of its local distribution. Which ever is the case, the Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*, has been regarded only as a "common migrant and winter resident throughout the state" in the *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* (Rapp, et al. 1958)). Contradicting the state list however, is the *A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds* (1957) which lists a subspecies of the Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia juddi* as breeding in northern Nebraska (Sioux County and Dakota County) and casual in southern Nebraska (Red Cloud). Does the Song Sparrow breed in Nebraska? How has this discrepency between check-lists come to exist? The purpose of this paper is to set forth all the records known to me which establish the fact that the Song Sparrow does breed in Nebraska and thereby correct the status of the species for future check-lists and state bird books.

My own records of breeding Song Sparrows in Nebraska begin during the summer of 1970. I discovered a territorial male on 9 June in Holt County (Section 21, T-32N, R-10W) near a bridge over Redbird Creek. After observing the bird for some time I located a second Song Sparrow, perhaps the female of the pair, carrying food items to a brushy area along the creek. I searched this area thoroughly but despite flushing the sparrow several times, was unable to find a nest. I made no notice in my field notes of hearing any other singing males in the area.

During the fall of 1970 I learned that a Song Sparrow had been observed in southeast Lincoln near Antelope Lake in Holmes Park (Section 4, T-9N, R-7E, Lancaster County) the previous summer (Mr. and Mrs. John Ott, pers. comm.). A pair of sparrows of this species were observed carrying food, but neither nest nor young were ever found. An investigation of this area during the summer of 1971 revealed no Song Sparrows.

In the summer of 1971 I did locate a singing male near Olive Creek Reservoir (Section 15, T-7N, R-5E, Lancaster Co.). Although I never found evidence of nesting activity, this Song Sparrow was singing in the same general area on three separate visits to the reservoir that summer (10 and 21 June, and 3 July) and led me to strongly suspect that the bird at least occupied a territory.

During the summer of 1972 I discovered a singing male on the north end of Wagon Train Lake in southeastern Lancaster County (SW ¼, Section 24, T-8N, R-7E) on 9 July. In the course of searching this area for duck broods and nesting rails I located five other territorial male Song Sparrows, all in the same general type of habitat. This consisted of tall marsh grasses (*Phalaris arundinacea* and *Calamagrostis inexpansa* for the most part) broken by deep winding channels of small feeders creek with scattered brush and dead trees. After watching the male closely I was able to follow it to its nest, located in a small shrub about three inches from the ground. The nest contained two young about to fledge and both of them flew out of the nest when I attempted to photograph them. They alighted on the far side of one of the deep creeks, which was unnegotiable in my waders, and I quickly lost sight of them. A male Song Sparrow collected from this population of birds (now in the University of Nebraska State Museum — ZM#13070) was molting, had very worn plumage, had little fat and its testes were enlarged

(7 x 4 mm). Because the location of this collected specimen lies very close to the range limits of two subspecies of the Song Sparrow (*M.m. juddi* and *M.m. euphonia*), I was interested to learn if this population (apparently of recent origin since none had been noted here previously) had come from northern populations (*juddi*) or from eastern populations (*euphonia*). Although the wing length of the specimen falls within the limits of several subspecies of the Song Sparrow and hence it cannot be distinguished on size, it is indistinguishable from the series of *juddi* at the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan (Dr. R. B. Payne, pers. comm.).

Two weeks after I collected the specimen at Wagon Train Lake I discovered a single singing male near Stage Coach Lake (Section 4, T-7N, R-7E, Lancaster Co.) about three miles to the southwest (25 July 1972). This locale too was on one of the inlet creeks where tall grass and dead trees were present. No evidence of nesting was observed but I did see a second Song Sparrow which may have been the female of the pair or a juvenile. During the summer on several occasions (15 June and 2 July) I also observed a territorial male at the Chet Ager Nature Center in Lincoln (Section 5, T-9N, R-6E) which has since been reported by Commers (1972), and a singing male on an inlet creek to Conestoga Lake (Section 9, T-9N, R-5E, Lancaster Co.) on 22 June.

My observations on Song Sparrows in Nebraska seem to reflect the local nature of their occurrence, as do those observations made by others in previous years. Short (1961) found the species to be locally common in Polk County (3 mi. SSW Silver Creek) on the Platte River during the summers of 1956 and 1957. During these summers of intensive collection along some major river systems throughout the state this was the only locality in which Song Sparrows were noted. Wood (1965) reports the species as nesting at Plattsmouth (Cass Co.) on the basis of sparrows observed during the summer and a nest found later in the fall. It turned out, however, that this nest could not be positively identified as belonging to a Song Sparrow, and it may in fact have been the nest of a Brown Thrasher (Mrs. Paul T. Heineman, pers. comm.). The presence of singing Song Sparrows in the same location at the mouth of the Platte River during the summer months of 1965 is very suggestive of breeding birds. Mrs. Heinemen (pers. comm.) notes that on 14 July 1965, in the company of Doris Gates and Mrs. Wayne Schneider, she saw three Song Sparrows in this location. No reports of nesting have come from that area since, however. Roger Sharpe (1967, and pers. comm.) found what appeared to be a Song Sparrow and three nestlings about one half mile south of Lundy Ranch (two-thirds of the way down Sow Belly Canyon road) in Sioux County on 18 June 1966. One of the juveniles was collected and is housed in the Nebraska State Museum (ZM#11578). The specimen (with a label collection date of 20 June) has been verified as a juvenile Song Sparrow by Dr. Robert B. Payne (pers. comm.) who compared it to the series of juveniles at the Museum of Zoology - University of Michigan. Mrs. Roy J. Witschy relates (pers. comm.) that a Song Sparrow was discovered during the annual Scottsbluff County spring bird count in Riverside Park in 1969 (exact date not given), and that the nest was subsequently discovered low in a snowberry bush after watching the male for some time. The four nestling sparrows were watched for several weeks until they fledged. Song Sparrows have not been seen in that area since then because of destruction of nesting habitat by the park management. A 1956 mimeographed check-list of birds for the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge

(Cherry Co.) indicates that the Song Sparrow is an occasional summer resident there. During the summer of 1973 Song Sparrows were again observed in Lancaster County and also Douglas and Sarpy Counties by Bryce Anderson and Melba Wigg (Williams, 1973).

Emphasis on the breeding birds of Nebraska began in 1956 when the *Nebraska Bird Review* began to publish nesting reports. During the ten years in which they appeared four reports of Song Sparrows were published; two in the southeast corner and two in the north-central portion of the state. Unfortunately, specific localities, dates and evidence of breeding for these records are not given in the literature to conserve space. This information is supposed to be on file but attempts to locate it were unsuccessful. It appears that one of the records for the southeast corner of the state is from Plattsmouth (already cited in this paper) and that one of the records for the north-central portion is from Tryon (McPherson Co.). There has been only one record of the Song Sparrow from 1966 to date in the Cornell nest record card program (a juvenile collected by R. Sharpe-already cited).

The breeding bird censuses conducted since 1967 in Nebraska also show that Song Sparrows have been appearing in localities scattered throughout the state. The data available for the first four years of the counts (Table 1) show that Song Sparrows occurred every year but were not observed on the same count in consecutive years. They have been noted at only one or two stops along an entire census route too, which is not too surprising perhaps, in light of their spotty distribution.

Table 1. Summer occurrences of the Song Sparrow in Nebraska recorded on the annual Breeding Bird Survey.

Year	Count number	Count name	County	Number of Song Sparrows	Observer
1967	1	Julian	Otoe-Nemaha	1	C. Conkling
	28	Johnstown	Brown	1	E. Hurlbut
1968	14	Surprise	Butler	1	L. Morris
	19	Oconto	Custer	1	C. Smith
1969	22	Thurston	Thurston	1	W. Lueshen
1970	1	Julian	Otoe-Nemaha	2	F. Jensen
	16	Bartlett	Wheeler	1	K. Bruning

From the preceding discussion and Figure 1 it can be readily seen that the distribution of the Song Sparrow in Nebraska is widespread in spite of the species' local nature. It becomes a bit puzzling as to why the Song Sparrow has not been given breeding status in the state check-list. One reason might be that no one until now has carefully reviewed the status of the species. Although this may be true for the last 15 years, such a review must have been acomplished when the state check-list was written and published in 1958. Note that the majority of records presented in this paper are all after 1958. Thus it would seem that the breeding of Song Sparrows in Nebraska is a relatively new phenomenon. A look at some of the early ornithological works for the state however, shows that this is not the case.

Aughey (1878) noted that the Song Sparrow was common in certain localities in Nebraska but gave no indication of whether or not these represented breeding birds. He did collect two sparrows in June of 1865 at Dakota City (Dakota Co.) which may have been breeding birds. Coleman (1889) found the Song Sparrow to be a rare breeding bird near Peru (Nemaha Co.) in the 1880's. Bruner (1896) notes that breeding birds were known from Lincoln, Omaha and West Point. Bruner's abbreviated annotated list (1901) regards the species as "a not very common breeder over the state (several records)". From this point in time until the observations of the 1950's there appear to be no published breeding records. Bruner et al. (1904) note that a few Song Sparrows may have bred in the state, especially in northern Nebraska, but no actual records are given. Wolcott (1909) regarded the species as a rare breeder in northern Nebraska but he too gave no substantiating records. T. C. Stephens (1937), an authority on the avifauna of Dakota County, never found the Song Sparrow as a breeding bird even though Aughey (op. cit.) some 40 years before had found the species during the breeding season. The *Check-list of the Birds of Nebraska* (Haecker et al., 1945) recorded the Song Sparrow as a migrant and winter visitant only; perhaps the result of the lack of records for so many years. The *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* (Rapp et al., 1958) perpetuated the omission of the Song Sparrow as a breeding bird presumably because no recent records could be found. While the species may always have been a Nebraska breeding bird, a combination of rarity and local distribution seems to have kept it from being recognized as such.

The *Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U., 1957) which was published about the same time as the state check-list produced three records for Sioux County, Dakota City (Dakota Co.) and Red Cloud (Webster Co.) that enabled it to put Nebraska within the breeding range of the Song Sparrow. Why were these records not included in the state check-list? An intensive literature search has failed to reveal the sources of the records cited, but it is possible that they represent specimens in some large U.S. museum. This is a particularly tempting explanation in view of the fact that the only published records of Song Sparrows from Dakota City are those of Aughey (op. cit.) who collected specimens there. Such specimens may have been unknwn to the compilers of the state check-list.

Why has the number of records increased in recent years? One can only speculate that the abundance of Song Sparrows has actually increased, or that mobility of observers and an increase in the number of observers has caused the species to become more conspicuous. There simply isn't any data from the past in most areas of the state to make inferences. In the case of the Lancaster County records it is conceivable that habitat changes in recent times may have allowed for successful colonizations by new populations. These records are located predominantly around small reservoirs that have been constructed in the last 15 years. It seems very unlikely that breeding Song Sparrows would not have been noted in these areas prior to this time had they been present, especially with numerous eminent ornithologists and bird students residing in the county. It appears that the species may be dependent on a particular stage of vegetative succession associated with the reservoirs, because even though the reservoirs are in some cases 15 years old, Song Sparrows were not observed there until about 1970. Monitoring these areas in the future would be helpful in learning if this is true.

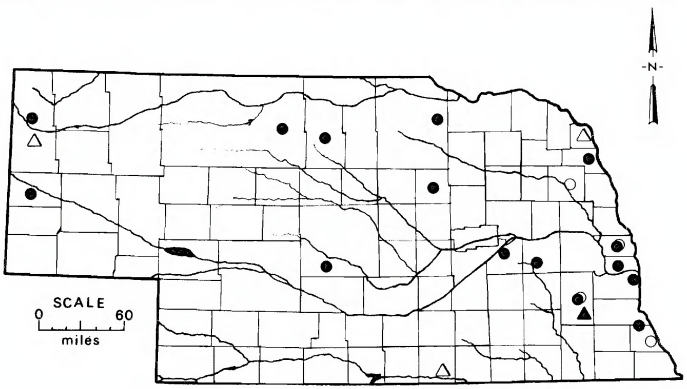

Figure 1. Distribution of breeding records for the Song Sparrow in Nebraska. Open triangles represent records from the A.O.U. Check-list (5th ed.); the single solid black triangle represents the 1972 nest record; open circles represent other records before 1900; solid black circles represent one or more other records after 1900.

Summary

Although the state check-list regards the Song Sparrow only as a common migrant and winter visitant, a review of the literature and the presentation of several new records, including a nest record for Lancaster County, demonstrate that the species breeds in Nebraska. The distribution of breeding Song Sparrows in the state appears to be widespread in spite of the local nature of breeding records. Although the species seems to be rare in most parts of Nebraska, it may actually be increasing in abundance in the southeastern portion of the state.

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1974 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Eighty-five species were reported in the 1974 Christmas Count from seven localities, and two, possibly three, other species were reported as present during the count period, but not recorded on the count itself. Probably some of the birds reported as "Meadowlark sp." were Eastern Meadowlarks, and if so the count would be one higher. The figures for the 1973 Count, on the same basis, were ninety-four seen and two present at seven localities. The total of 95,003 is well above the 65,739 reported last year. The Snow Goose count was 34,000 higher, all at Omaha; the Mallard count was 10,000 higher, almost entirely at Scottsbluff; the Horned Lark count was down about 4,000, about 3,000 at Hastings and most of the rest at Lincoln; Starlings up about 3,000, mostly at Omaha; House Sparrows up about 2,000, about 1,500 at Scottsbluff and 1,000 at Lincoln, with a drop of over 300 at Omaha; Red-winged Blackbirds down about 1,000, mostly at Omaha (but the 10,000 Blackbird sp. reported last year wasn't repeated this year); Dark-eyed Juncoes down about 400, about 300 at Omaha and 100 at Lincoln; Tree Sparrows down about 1,000, about 1,300 at Lincoln with an increase of about 400 at Omaha; Harris' Sparrows down about 600, about 500 at Hastings and 100 at Lincoln; and Lapland Longspurs down about 500, about 200 at Greeley and 300 at Hastings. Other changes were generally smaller.

Crawford did not report this year, but Kearney did, so that the total number of localities reporting remained the same.

The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order. The symbol "H" is used to indicate a species present during the count period but not observed on the count day.

Greeley, 26 December. An area from 5 miles west of Greeley to Greeley, north on county roads to Pibel Lake. 20° to 35°, slight SW wind,

clear to cloudy in afternoon, accompanied by snow. Partial snow cover. Lake frozen, Cedar River open. Area included coniferous and deciduous windbreaks, grasslands, and fields. Party miles 50, 5 on foot, 45 by car. Brian (compiler) and Douglas Moody.

Hastings, 21 December. A 15-mile diameter circle with the center south of town, 1.5 miles south of Highway 6 and .5 miles east of Highway 281, to include city parks, Parkview Cemetery, Crystal Lake Recreation Grounds, fields and pastures, woodlands along the Blue River, and lagoons west of Glenville. Partly cloudy, winds from O to 15 mph, 14° to 37°, ponds and lagoons frozen, river open, 2 to 12 inches of snow. Twelve observers in 7 parties (plus 12 at feeders). Party hours 25, 7 on foot and 18 by car; party miles 258, 5 on foot and 253 by car. 8 AM to 4 PM. Mrs. Floyd Butler, Miss Geraldine Heartwell, Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Mrs. Edith Hurlburt, Mr. and Mrs. George Janko, Burton Nelson, Mrs. O. W. Ritchey (complier), O. W. Ritchey, Carl Throckmorton, Miss Bernice Welch, and Mrs. Ronald Whitaker.

Kearney, 27 December. A 15-mile diameter circle, center at the Platte River bridge south of Kearney. Clear blue sky, 21° to 34°, calm, 100% snow cover, river 50% open. Seven observers, 70 miles by car, 2 on foot. John C. W. Bliese, Margaret Bliese, Randy Brown, George W. Brown (compiler), Norma Radford, Jack Unbehaun, Lorraine Unbehaun.

Lincoln, 22 December. A 15-mile diameter circle, centered at South Coddington and "A" streets, to include Pioneer Park, 7 square miles of Wilderness Park along Salt Creek, Yankee Hill Lake, Conestoga Lake, Holmes Lake, and a portion of Pawnee Lake, and adjacent fields. Deciduous woods 50%, coniferous woods 10%, lakes 10%, fields and pastures 20%, brushy draws 5%, roadsides 5%. 6 AM to 7:30 PM, mostly clear all day 31° to 41°, wind S to NW, 14 to 25 mph, snow cover 3 to 6 inches, running water open, lakes mostly frozen. Wild food crop, poor. Twenty observers, 16 in 9 parties, 4 at feeders, Total party hours, 69.5; 40.5 on foot, 29 by car, plus 6 at feeders; total party miles, 490; 54 on foot, 436 by car. Bryce Anderson, Naomi Brill, Shirley Doole, Daryl and Margaret Giblin, Everett and Mildred Gross, Ellen and Ralph Harrington (compiler), Emerson Jones, Robert Morley, Rosalind Morris, John and Mable Ott, Hazel Scheiber, Ernie Schwab.

The Winter Wren was identified by Ernie Schwab and verified by Bryce Anderson and Daryl Giblin. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the Brown Thrasher were seen at their feeder by Prof. and Mrs. Rudolf Sandstedt. The Osprey was seen in the Conestoga Lake area by the Grosses, who described it as an eagle-type bird with slimmer, more crooked wings, whitish underneath with a black patch at the bend of the wing, and a banded tail. This species is new to the count. Daryl Giblin heard the Saw-whet Owl answer to some of the tapes he played of this species. The Barred Owl was seen by Bryce Anderson in the Wilderness Park area, about the same place it was seen last year. They didn't get the Snowy Owls for the count, buf Shirley Doole saw one at Pawnee Lake the week before, and Ralph Harrington saw two at Branched Oak Lake on 8 December.

Omaha, 14 December. A 15-mile diameter circle, centered at Offutt Base Lake, to include Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa State Park (Iowa), Plattsmouth State Game Refuge, and portions of the Platte and Missouri rivers. Cultivated fields and pastures 60%, woodlands 35%, water 5%. 5 AM to 4:30 PM, 27° to 34°, wind E changing to NW, 6 to 17 mph, overcast, with heavy snow starting at 1:20 PM, snow cover 0 to 4 inches, rivers and streams

— *Text continued on page* 12

	Scotts-bluff	Kear-ney	Gree-ley	Hast-ings	Lin-coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
Canada Goose	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	6
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	40,036	-	40,036
Mallard	25,678	500	-	-	50	364	-	26,592
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Green-winged Teal	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
American Wigeon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	H	-	H
Common Goldeneye	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2	-	2	16	19	-	41
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Golden Eagle	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bald Eagle	6	4	-	-	-	5	-	15
Marsh Hawk	3	1	-	4	2	-	-	10
Osprey	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Merlin	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
American Kestrel	14	7	H	1	14	19	-	55
Bobwhite	-	10	H	14	17	29	10	80
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	5	16	25	11	5	8	74
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Killdeer	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Common Snipe	9	1	-	-	1	-	-	11
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Rock Dove	59	-	2	380	55	76	-	572
Mourning Dove	6	1	-	17	60	9	3	96
Ringed Turtle Dove	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Screech Owl	1	-	1	-	15	1	-	18
Great Horned Owl	6	2	H	2	12	6	-	28
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	6	-	6	1	4	-	19
Common Flicker	31	3	1	5	18	63	-	121
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	H
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	1	-	4	5	46	5	61
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	23	4	-	27

	Scotts-bluff	Kear-ney	Gree-ley	Hast-ings	Lin-coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
Hairy Woodpecker	2	-	-	6	22	6	3	39
Downy Woodpecker	10	4	1	23	59	88	8	193
Horned Lark	118	150	10	350	41	3	-	672
Blue Jay	15	1	-	14	137	49	8	224
Black-billed Magpie	52	5	10	2	-	-	-	69
Common Crow	18	5	18	24	147	92	1	305
Black-capped Chickadee	56	4	14	18	186	259	12	549
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	15	6	21
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	3	-	11	51	59	2	126
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	8
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	6	10	6	-	22
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Brown Thrasher	H	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
American Robin	63	100	52	6	32	42	-	295
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	30
Bluebird sp.	Note	-	-	-	-	-	-	H
Townsend's Solitaire	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	1	59	33	-	93
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cedar Waxwing	-	4	-	12	5	50	-	71
Northern Shrike	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Starling	840	200	101	1,500	1,059	4,539	1	8,240
House Sparrow	2,181	100	160	2,000	4,638	1,315	24	10,418
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	185	-	13	-	198
Western Meadowlark	108	1	6	-	455	-	-	570
Red-winged Blackbird	128	15	-	2	12	177	-	334
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	7	-	19	-	26
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Common Grackle	-	-	-	1	3	43	-	47
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	77	150	-	227
Cardinal	-	6	1	35	106	82	10	240
Purple Finch	-	4	-	-	15	13	-	32
House Finch	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
Pine Siskin	36	-	-	5	-	1	1	43
American Goldfinch	22	-	6	2	183	245	-	458
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Dark-eyed Junco	102	5	6	82	361	639	15	1,210
Tree Sparrow	225	5	62	54	558	790	-	1,694
Field Sparrow	2	-	-	-	12	-	-	14

	Scotts-bluff	Kear-ney	Gree-ley	Hast-ings	Lin-coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
Harris' Sparrow	1	4	-	76	294	66	11	452
White-crowned Sparrow	22	-	-	-	-	1	1	24
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Song Sparrow	4	-	-	7	13	15	-	39
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10
Species Reported	43	32	17	40	53	58	19	85
Present but not seen	2	-	3	-	1	1	-	2
Total individuals	29,934	1,161	467	4,902	8,858	49,550	131	95,003

open, some lakes and ponds partly open. Thirty two observers in 10 parties, plus 2 at feeders. Total party hours, 70; 29 on foot, 41 by car, plus 12 at feeders; total party miles, 442; 33 on foot, 409 by car. Rose Anderson, Steve Bellinghiere, Tanya Bray, Dan Cassidy, James Commers, Paula Commers, Evelyn Conrad, R. G. Cortelyou, James Delehant, Shirley Doole, William Fiske, William Frates, C. E. Heaney, Jr., Mike Heaney, Tom Heaney, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Clyde Johnson, Emma Johnson, Teta Kain, Vance Kaminski, Paul Kaminski, Glenn Le Dioyt, Dr. Robert LoPresti, Ed Loth, Marian Meier, Cathy Nelson, Marie Pluta, Alva Sheard, James Sutton, Melba Wigg (compiler), Gertrude Wood.

Tape recordings were used to call up the Screech Owl. The Snow Goose count was unusually high for this time of year. The Shoveler was on the Plattsmouth Refuge, and this is the first time one has been reported on the count. The Two Swainson's Hawks were seen in approximately the same areas where two were seen on the 1971 count. Both were dark phase. One bird was twice, each time about two to three minutes, the other at close range on a telephone pole by a different party. The Merlin was a first for this count. Ruth Green reported: "At the Plattsmouth Refuge Shirley Doole, Jim and Paula Commers, and I observed a falcon flying overhead, which we could not identify at the time. A few minutes later we saw a falcon swoop low over a field of corn stubble in pursuit of a sparrow-like bird. The bird escaped but the falcon rested on a broken cornstalk long enough-for all of us to study the bird not only through binoculars but at leisure through a spotting scope. It flew down and caught a ground-feeding Common Flicker and carried it a few feet to the bare ground to eat it. After studying this bird carefully for every field mark, size, and the like, there was no doubt in our minds that our find was a female Merlin." The Virginia Rail was another first. R. G. Cortelyou reported: "The day was overcast, so that the colors weren't too clear. West of the little island at Kaplan's Point, at Lake Manawa, there is a little slough, and the water was open in it. I was surprised to see a dark bird fly up, fly a little ways, and drop back into the cattails. It happened so fast that I didn't use the binoculars. Because I was pretty sure it was a rail I looked at the bill to see if it had the light bill of a Sora. The bill and the dangling legs were dark. It was flying away from me so that I was at a poor angle, but at the time I was not conscious of bill length. I had a Peterson's Eastern Guide with me and looked at it. The Black Rail was too small, but the book did say that the full-grown young Virginia Rail was sooty-black in late summer and about the size of a Bobwhite, so I assumed it was

a Virginia. When I got back to the car I checked Robbins and Peterson's Western Guide, and after I got home I checked several others. Two or three of them mentioned dangling legs with the Virginia, but not with other rails, and the legs did dangle. So on the size, coloration, and general characteristics I declared it a juvenile Virginia Rail. I didn't try to go out and flush it again because the water would have been over my boot-tops, and I suspected that it would run rather than fly." The Ringed Turtle Dove was an escaped bird (*NBR* 42:62). It was last seen early in January, and possibly was a victim of a Christmas air rifle. The Snowy Owl was the first seen on a count since the 1963 count. The Hermit Thrush was a second record for the count. All five members of the party saw it, and noticed the reddish tail, duller brown-gray body, cream-colored breast, and the heavy and thick spots. It was seen to cock its tail.

Peru, exact date not given. Ida May Heywood wrote: "I did not make a formal bird count at Christmas time but did count them right here at home. I recorded only the largest number of each species seen at one time so I was sure I wasn't counting the same bird more than once. I live on a farm and really feed the birds. Now that the ground is covered with snow I have from 20 to 50 birds at my feeder all hours of the day. I put out gallons of grain daily, and I also have two huge wire-mesh baskets which I filled with suet. Another sight from my windows is that of deer." (She had 15 deer on her count list.)

Scottsbluff, 14 December. A 15-mile diameter circle centered on the bridge across the North Patte River at South Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering. 7 AM to 4:30 PM, 10° to 33°, wind NW 7 to 15 mph, snowing, partly cloudy in afternoon. Ponds and lakes frozen, warm streams and river open, snow cover 2 to 4 inches, wild food crop, excellent. Ten observers, 8 in 4 parties. Mrs. M. A. Banghart, Mrs. J. J. Brashear, Mrs. LeRoy Kenitz, Mrs. Dale Kurtz, James F. McCole, Mrs. Louie Nerud, Mr. A. L. Hadwiger, Mrs. W. L. Marking, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Witschy (compiler).

On 13 December Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Smith saw a bluebird with a red breast at their feeder. They were so excited at seeing it that they didn't determine whether it was an Eastern or a Western. Presumably it was an Eastern because they are here every year. The Brown Thrasher was seen at Witschy's bird bath 15 December, and it continued to patronize the bath after that. The Field Sparrows were seen by Mrs. Banghart and Mrs. Kurtz. They had plenty of time for close-up study, and noticed the pink bill, clear breast, and wing bars. They were reported on the Christmas Counts in 1957 and 1958.

1974 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1974 nesting season in Nebraska were received from thirty-eight observers, reporting on seventy-three species from twenty-eight counties. Counties in the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; letters are from NOU Nesting Report forms; Y represents young observed; E represnts Cowbird eggs found in other nests; CF represents carrying food; FY represents feeding young; NM represents

— *Text continued on page* 18

	Sioux	Dawes	Morrill	Garden	Lincoln	Hayes	Thomas	Frontier	Dawson	Rock	Phelps	Valley	Buffalo	Kearney	Greeley	Howard	Hall	Adams	Merrick	Hamilton	York	Cedar	Saline	Saunders	Lancaster	Douglas	Sarpy	Nemaha	Total Count
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pintail	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cinnamon Teal	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	4
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Golden Eagle	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Prairie Falcon	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	CF,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Killdeer	-	-	-	N,Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long-billed Curlew	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Avocet	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mourning Dove	-	1	-	Y	N,Y	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	-	24
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CF	-	-
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Burrowing Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Poor-will	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Nighthawk	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chimney Swift	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Flicker	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	4
Western Kingbird	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Western Flycatcher	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Lark	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	N	N,Y	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	2,N,Y	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	20
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	1

	Sioux 1	Dawes 2	Morrill 3	Garden 4	Lincoln 5	Hayes 6	Thomas 7	Frontier 8	Dawson 9	Rock 10	Phelps 11	Valley 12	Buffalo 13	Kearney 14	Greeley 15	Howard 16	Hall 17	Adams 18	Merrick 19	Hamilton 20	York 21	Cedar 22	Saline 23	Saunders 24	Lancaster 25	Douglas 26	Sarpy 27	Nemaha 28	Total Count
Blue Jay	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Crow	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
House Wren	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	CF,Y	CF,Y	-	9
Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CF	-	-
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	CF,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
American Robin	-	-	-	-	1,N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	3	-	4,Y	7	3	2	-	-	1	-	7	Y	Y	-	33
Eastern Bluebird	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	2
Starling	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	4	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1,N,E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	NM	-	-	13

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CF	-	-
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CF	-	-
Lark Bunting	-	-	-	N	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	FY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-
Nest Cards																													
Individuals	4	13	2	-	4	1	-	5	1	3	6	1	20	9	4	2	21	15	10	6	2	1	5	2	50	4	-	1	192
Species	3	6	2	-	4	1	-	3	1	2	4	1	10	4	2	1	11	4	6	3	2	1	4	1	16	4	-	1	38
No Nest Cards																													
Species	1	-	-	11	36	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	9	-	35
Total Species	4	6	2	11	40	1	1	3	1	2	4	1	10	4	2	1	18	5	6	3	2	1	4	1	17	11	9	1	73

nesting material, and N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted. Thirty-eight species were reported on 192 North American Nest Record Cards; in addition, out-of-state nests were reported on four cards. The counties with column numbers on the tabulation shown in parentheses) and the contributors were: Adams (18) E. R. Ritchey, Bernice Welch; Buffalo (13) M. R. Coe, S. J. Ginder, K. K. Kennedy, L. K. Killion, D. Smith, M. R. Taylor, J. R. Weddel; Cedar (22) Ross A. Lock; Dawes (2) Doris Gates, Ross A. Lock; Dawson (9) Jan Faeh; Douglas (26) R. G. Cortelyou; Frontier (8) D. L. Widdlick; Garden (4) Mary Tremaine; Greeley (15) Jan Faeh; Hall (17) C. W. Shafer; Hamilton (20) C. J. Streeter, D. E. Studley; Hayes (6) B. Meduna; Howard (16) K. K. Kennedy; Kearney (14) L. K. Killion, N. V. Radford, L. R. Schmitt; Lancaster (25) B. W. Anderson, Rosanne Anderson, Esther V. Bennett, Jan Faeh, Don M. Mullison, Don C. Pitcher, Kurt P. Seevers; Lincoln (5) Bernadine Cox, J. Hyland, N. Lyman, B. Meduna; J. R. Weddel; Merrick (19) Jan Faeh, P. L. Weber; Morrill (3) Ross A. Lock, B. Meduna; Nemaha (28) Curt Twedt; Phelps (11) J. C. Bliese, G. D. Deyle, L. K. Killion, M. R. Taylor; Rock (10) K. Robertson; Saline (23) M. R. Coe, E. W. Gross; Sarpy (27) R. G. Cortelyou; Saunders (24) Ross A. Lock; Sioux (1) Ross A. Lock, Richard Rosche; Thomas (7) Roger Sharpe; Valley (12) D. Smith; York (21) C. J. Streeter

The following fourteen Nebraska species which were reported in 1974 were not reported in the 1973 Nesting Survey (*NBR* 42:3): Black-crowned Night Heron, Cinnamon Teal, Prairie Falcon, Barn Owl, Poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Thirty-two species reported in the 1973 Survey were not reported in 1974: Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sora, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-billed Cuckoo, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Swainson's Thrush, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

A survey was made in Lincoln of nesting pairs of Purple Martins. Of 46 persons with Purple Martin houses, 34 reported a total of approximately 168 pairs, which had varying degrees of nesting success. The remaining 12 persons reported no Purple Martins, with the houses being occupied by House Sparrows or Starlings. One person indicated that he had no Purple Martins nesting after 15 successful years, another reported none after successful nesting for the three years.

The Western Flycatcher nest record seems to be a first - non previous record has been found to date. On 27 July 1975 Mr. Rosche wrote: "The Western Flycatcher nest contained four downy young last Saturday, 20 July, the last time I was there. The male was still singing although we had to get into his territory before he made himself known. The nest is located in a crevice on a vertical wall in a canyon (Sowbelly in Sioux County). This is in the exact spot where I heard a singing male last year on 4 July and for the first time this year on 5 July."

The sighting of Cinnamon Teal young substantiates a 1937 record of the nesting of this species in Garden County (Rapp et al., *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* 1958 p. 4). The Barn Owl is still to be considered an uncommon breeder. The report of the nesting of the White-breasted Nuthatch indicates the species is still to be found nesting in suitable habitat west of the Missouri Valley Region.

Anyone who sees evidence of nesting - young, or adult birds carrying nesting material, food, or fecal sacs - can submit the information without the use of a special form, although it will be appreciated if the information is in such form that it can be easily separated by species and county. This information will be included in the Nebraska Nesting Survey by letters rather than numbers.

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to write in for North American Nest Record Cards to use in reporting on the nest (a separate card for each nest expect for colonial nesting species which require a separate card for each visit).

Cards, instruction sheets and Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Survey Newsletters may be obtained from Dr. Esther Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska 68520. Completed cards should be returned to Dr. Bennett by 1 October 1975 for the information to be included in the annual report. If persons wish to send information after that date it will be appreciated and sent to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, but it will not be possible to include it in the state summary.

City Naturalist, Lincoln

VIRGINIA RAIL NESTING IN LANCASTER COUNTY

On 24 June 1972, while I was walking through a marshy area northeast of Lincoln (Section 32, T-11N, R-5E, Lancaster Co.), I flushed a Virginia Rail from a well hidden nest situated at the base of a large clump of arrowhead (*Sagittaria* sp.) near the water's edge. The nest appeared to be constructed mainly of grasses and contained seven eggs, one of which was beginning to pip. The eggs were buffy colored with dark brown spots. I marked the nest site with a wooden stake and left the area so that the parent would come back to incubate.

A return visit to the area was unfortunately delayed for three days and at that time (27 June) the nest was empty with no indication of the fate of its contents. The nest was intact so it is possible that the young hatched successfully. No adults or young were observed in the vicinity of the nest. Playback of tape-recorded Virginia Rail calls at the edge of this marsh on 1 July resulted in attracting an adult Virginia Rail to the road where it was easily identified. Another Virginia Rail in another part of the marsh called in response to the playback. No young rails were seen that evening.

This species is an uncommon migrant and summer resident in Nebraska (Rapp et al., Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds, 1958) and there is apparently one very old breeding record of a Virginia Rail for Lancaster County (Bruner et al., Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska, 1904). I have observed this species in late summer and early fall, as well as in spring migration, but this nest and associated adult birds are the only definite evidence of breeding by the Virginia Rail that I have for Lancaster County.

— *Calvin L. Cink, Lincoln*

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NOTES

PILEATED WOODPECKER. Mrs. Stanley J. Copley, of Franklin, saw a Pileated Woodpecker in the summer of 1974 in the woods south of the bridge across the Republican River. She described it as about the size of a crow, with a red crest. She saw and heard it drumming on the tree. She had *Birds of North America* with her at the time. The habitat description calls for dense deciduous woods, and that is the condition along the Republican River.

— *George W. Brown, Kearney*

Mrs. Donna Robinson, who lives west of Hummel Park, Omaha, had a Pileated Woodpecker at her suet feeder 8 and 10 February 1975, but had not seen it again through the end of February. They are familiar with Pileated Woodpeckers from seeing them in Arkansas. The last previous record for this area was one seen 26 October 1952 near Ft. Calhoun, a few miles north, in Washington County (*NBR* 21:3). The last record before that was one seen near Omaha on 20 May 1895. They were reported in Indian Cave State Park in 1969 and in Otoe County in 1970 (*NBR* 39:3).

BAIRD'S SPARROW. I saw a Baird's Sparrow 6 June 1974 in Garden County. That's a very late date for a migrant.

— *Mary Tremaine, Omaha*

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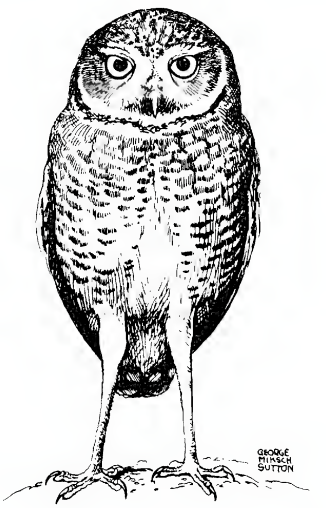

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THE SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Seventy-fourth Annual Meeting was held in North Platte on 17 and 18 May 1975. Ninety-two registered for the meeting, and slightly more attended the banquet. The formal program consisted of:

Welcome, Robert Phares, Mayor, North Platte.

W. H. Cunningham, President, Tout Bird Club.

Response, George W. Brown, President, NOU.

Comments on the Results of the Zoological Resource Study in the Mid-State Project Area, Stanley Longfellow, Biology Department, Kearney State College.

Wildlife and the Platte River Basin Study, Gene Miller, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI, Grand Island.

Duck Identification Using Wings Only, Jim Hurt, Bioenforcement Specialist, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Kearney.

History and Functions of Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska, Wayne Heathers, Manager, Middle Republican NRD, Curtis.

Feeding Responses of Common Grackles to Colored Bread, Gail Deyle, Student, Kearney State College.

Doris Gates, Chadron, presented Gail Shickley's suggestion that one of the Christmas stamps this year recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Christmas Count.

NOU, Way Back When (excerpts from the Letters of Information of 1925 to 1928), R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha.

It Began With Birds, a film produced by the National Audubon Society, part of which was on the Sandhill Cranes in the Platte valley.

At the Business Meeting it was voted to raise the subscription cost for Canada and Mexico to that of other foreign countries - $5.25. The invitation of the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Bellevue, to hold the 1976 Annual Meeting there was accepted. The following officers were elected: Dr. Rosalind Morris, Lincoln, president; Mr. Ross Lock, Lincoln, vice president; Mrs. Emma Johnson, Omaha, secretary; Mr. John Ott, Lincoln, treasurer; Dr. Neva Pruess, Lincoln, librarian; and Mr. R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha, editor.

After the banquet Mrs. Earle Lionberger, Superior was presented with a certificate in honor of her fifty years of continuous membership (she joined at the 1925 Annual Meeting in Superior) and Charles Frith, Supervisor, Natural Resource Specialist, Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha, spoke on "Sandhill Cranes and the Platte River".

A severe storm during the night caused a power outage of an hour and a half, which bothered those dependent on electric alarm clocks and delayed the preparation of coffee for the breakfast a little but otherwise caused no problems. The day was bright and clear. Five parties reported 120 species plus Empidonax sp., and three (marked *) were seen the day before in the area, but not on Sunday: Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue, Green, and Black-crowned Night Herons; American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Swainson's, Rough-legged, and Marsh Hawks; American Kestrel, Greater Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot,

Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Long-billed Curlew; Upland, Spotted, and Semipalmated Sandpipers; *Dowitcher sp., Wilson's Phalarope.

Herring, Ring-billed, and Franklin's Gulls; Rock and Mourning Doves; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Great Horned and Burrowing Owls; Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker; Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern and Western Kingbirds; Eastern and Say's Phoebes; Least Flycatcher, Empidonax sp., Horned Lark; Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch; House and Long-billed Marsh Wrens; Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling; Bell's Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Philadelphia, and Warbling Vireos.

Black-and-white, Yellow, and Blackpoll Warblers; Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes; Connecticut Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink; Eastern and Western Meadowlarks; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds; Orchard and Northern Orioles; Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal; Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks; Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, *House Finch, Amerian Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Lark Bunting, *Savannah, Grasshopper, Lark, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, White-crowned, Swamp, and Song Sparrows.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER BREEDING IN LANCASTER COUNTY

Although the Blue-gray Gnatcather, *Polioptila caerulea*, is regarded as "a fairly common breeder in the forests along the larger streams in the eastern quarter of the state" by Rapp et al. (Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds, 1958) and Fiala (*NBR* 38:57, 1970) notes that the species is a local summer resident in Gage County, there appear to be no recent records for Lancaster County.

On 16 June 1972, while birding along a stretch of woods on Oak Creek north of Raymond, I was attracted to the food-begging cries of a young bird. It was sitting on low branch of a small Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) in deep shade. The bird was very small, almost kinglet size, nearly fully feathered out except for a few areas on the head and was light gray in color with buffy colored bill and legs. While I was watching and trying to decide what it could be, an adult Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared nearby and gave a long series of excited calls, as if it were agitated by my presence. After I moved off some distance and sat down behind some shrubs the adult finally did come to the young with food. From my vantage point I couldn't determine what the food item was or the sex of the adult bird. The adult then disappeared and the fledging sat quietly. I watched for another 10 to 15 minutes in hopes of a return visit by the parent but when it didn't return I left the area.

In three summers of field work in Lancaster County this was the only time I had ever seen a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and to find it breeding came as a surprise. The species must be quite rare in the county and very local in its occurrence.

— *Calvin L. Cink, Lincoln*

1974 (SEVENTEENTH) FALL OCCURRENCE REPORT

Two hundred seventy-seven species, plus two apparently released or escaped species, one species for which the identification was not positive, and the possibility that some of the birds reported just as "Peep" were not specifically reported as others, are shown in this report. Reports were received for 13 localities, although two covered just one day each and were included because they were from areas (Burt and Knox counties) not usually covered. These figures compare with 281 from 12 localities in 1973, 253 from 10 in 1972, and 251 from 9 in 1971 (after adjustment for the name changes).

The information is presented in a rough west (left) to east (right) order, with locations of about the same longitude listed with the northernmost first (left). Two dates indicate the first and last records during the period. The symbols used are:

Jl, Au, Sp, Oc, No, and De for the months.

S - to indicate a species which arrived before 1 July.

- W to indicate a species which remained after 31 December.

P to indicate a species which is present all the year, although the same individuals may not be present during the whole year, and the numbers may vary greatly between periods. (S - W also indicates much the same thing, but is used in cases which are considered special circumstances, rather than a normal pattern.)

x where the exact date in a month was not given.

A in the Keith County (LM) column indicates 18 August, B 27 October. H in the Burt County (BT) column indicates 31 July, and in the Knox County (KX) column indicates 10 October.

The reporting locations, contributors, and special comments are:

Adams (and Clay), Hastings and Sutton, 102 species (and the possibility that the "Cuckoo species" reported might have been a Black-billed Cuckoo), Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, Mrs. Edith Hurlburt, and Elden and Ruth Percival (reporters), Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Mrs. Clifford Kennedy, Mrs. Elsie Rose, and Miss Bernice Welch. The Roses saw two Whooping Cranes up on the Platte northwest, outside of Adams county.

Burt (BT), 23 species, Dr. Norma Johnson (reporter). Birds reported by Dr. Johnson from a 31 July visit. She notes that these are all nesting species.

Cherry, Valentine, 27 species, Douglas Ballard (reporter). Mr. Ballard didn't start to keep detailed records for use on the report until mid-fall.

Clay, see Adams.

Dawes, Chadron, 21 species, Doris Gates (reporter). In the most part these are last dates.

Douglas (and Sarpy) Omaha and Bellevue, 198 species, plus 2 apparently escaped or released species, one probable, and the possibility that some of the "Empidonax species" were Willow or Alder Flycatchers, and that the Meadowlark species" included some Eastern Meadowlarks. Ruth Green, Melba Wigg, Carl Swanson, R. G. Cortelyou (reporters), Tanya Bray, Evelyn Conrad, Hazel Diggs, Jim Delehant, Bill Fiske, Mary Harberg, Clyde Johnson, Teta Kain, Marian Meier, Andy Saunders, Minta Schurr. A couple of Black Ducks were seen on the marsh lake in Fontenelle Forest from 18 July to 2 August. It was assumed that they were released birds - probably

—text continued on p. 38

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12	-	-	-	Jl 28 De 7	-	Oc 1 No 11
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 24	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 14 No 16	-	Oc 28 No 11
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 7	-	-	-	-	Sp 26	-	Jl 28 Sp 15
Western Grebe	Oc 5 Oc 10	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 27	No 2	-	-	-	Sp 27 Oc 2	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	Au 7 Oc 22	-	-	-	Au 15 Au 21	-	No 2	-	Jl 17 Oc 20	-	Jl 24 De 4	-	Au 3 No 28
White Pelican	-	-	-	A	-	Sp 12 Sp 26	-	-	-	-	Sp 14 Oc 6	-	Sp 28
Double-crested Cormorant	S - Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 16	-	-	-	Sp 8 Oc 26	-	Au 16 Oc 24
Great Blue Heron	S - De 25	-	-	A	Au 13	S - Sp 27	S - Oc 15	-	Jl 17 Sp 10	-	Jl 15 De 7	-	S - No 22
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 17 Oc 20	-	S - Sp 29	-	S - Sp 26
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 17 Oc 20	-	-	-	-
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 22
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 11 Sp 11	-	Sp 14
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	Sp 21 Sp 27	-	-	A	Au 15	S - Jl 26	S - Sp 12	-	Sp 28	-	Sp 4 Oc 6	-	-
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28	-	-
American Bittern	S - Oc 5	-	-	-	-	Jl 13	-	-	-	-	S - Oc 26	-	Sp 15 Oc 24
Canada Goose	Oc 5 De 14	-	No 16	-	Oc 15 No 16	-	Oc 20	-	Sp 1	-	S - De 15	-	Sp 13 No 3
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2	-	Sp 27 Oc 12	-	Oc 2 No 2
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 1	-	Oc 2 No 16	-	Sp 13 No 21
Mallard	P	-	De 13	B	-	S - Sp 27	P	-	Jl 17 De 4	H	P	-	Au 4 De 14
Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Note

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Gadwall	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 1 No 22	-	-	-	Jl 28 De 12	-	Oc 8 De 14
Pintail	Oc 5	-	No 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 De 12	-	Sp 13 Oc 12
Green-winged Teal	Sp 28 De 14	-	-	-	Au 21	-	-	-	No 1	-	Sp 8 De 12	-	Sp 2 Oc 23
Blue-winged Teal	S - Oc 5	-	-	-	Au 15	-	Oc 12	-	Sp 17 Oc 23	-	S - Oc 27	-	Au 4 Oc 24
American Wigeon	Sp 11 De 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 No 16	-	Sp 13 No 15
Northern Shoveler	-	-	No 1	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 4 No 16	-	Sp 29 De 14
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - De 31	-	S - Oc 24
Redhead	Oc 5 No 10	-	-	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28 No 24	-	Sp 29 No 9
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 25 De 12	-	Oc 12
Canvasback	-	-	No 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12 No 16	-	De 17
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 27	-	-
Lesser Scaup	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 15	-	Au 17 De 12	-	Sp 29 De 5
Common Goldeneye	De 2 De 14	-	De 29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 24 De 12	-	No 22 De 6
Bufflehead	-	-	No 1 No 6	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12 De 12	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 26	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 30	Oc 16	-	Oc 15	-	Oc 6 De 12	-	Oc 8 No 10
Hooded Merganser	-	-	No 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	De 7 De 12	-	Oc 27
Common Merganser	Sp 27 Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 16 De 12	-	-
Turkey Vulture	S - Jl 3	Sp 18	-	A	-	-	No 28	-	-	-	Sp 10	-	Oc 18
Mississippi Kite	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 23	-	-	-	Oc 7 De 29	-	No 25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	Sp 7 Sp 13	-	Oc 4	-	Sp 3	-	Sp 4 De 26	-	Sp 16 Sp 21

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22	-	-	-	Jl 6 De 22	-	Au 29 Sp 8
Red-tailed Hawk	P	-	De 8 De 13	A	Sp 21	-	Oc 26 Oc 31	P	P	H	P	-	P
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 Oc 5
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	Au 13	S - Sp 30	S - Oc 11	-	-	-	Oc 8	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	No 9 - W	Sp 3	-	-	-	-	No 2	No 10 De 3	-	-	De 8	-	Sp 17 De 31
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	P	-	-	-	Late Dec.	-	Oc 27	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 28
Eagle sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 31	-	-
Bald Eagle	De 2 - W	-	De 8	-	-	-	No 9 - W	De 21 De 24	-	H	-	-	No 2 - W
Marsh Hawk	P	-	P	A	P	-	P	Oc 3 De 12	Oc 4 De 30	-	Au 23 - W	-	Au 31 Oc 12
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22 Sp 29	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 24 De 28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 24	-	-	-	No 10	-	Sp 2
Merlin	Oc 5 De 20	-	-	-	Oc 22	-	-	-	Sp 18	-	Jl 4 Sp 29	-	De 14
American Kestrel	P	-	-	-	P	S - Sp 27	P	P	P	-	P	-	P
Greater Prairie Chicken	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	P	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bobwhite	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	H	P
Ring-necked Pheasant	P	-	P	A B	P	Jl 1 Sp 30	P	P	P	H	P	H	P
Turkey	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	Oc 7 Oc 24	Oc 13	-	-	No 13 No 14	-	Sp 6 No 9	-	Sp 14 No 11	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 13 Oc 12	-	De 1[1]
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 28 Oc 6	-	-

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
American Coot	S - Oc 5	-	-	B	Au 21	S - Sp 27	Oc 6	-	No 1 No 2	H	S - De 12	-	Au 29 No 18
Semipalmated Plover	Sp 10 Sp 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 17 Sp 25	-	Au 24
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Sp 5	-	-
Killdeer	S - De 14	-	-	A B	S - Sp 30	S - Sp 27	S - Oc 6	S - Sp 16	S - De 21	H	S - No 17	-	S - No 24
Am. Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28	-	Sp 13
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	Au 13	-	-	-	-	-	Au 28 Sp 28	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 4
Common Snipe	S - De 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 4 No 16	-	Sp 2 Oc 26
Long-billed Curlew	S - Sp 8	-	-	-	-	S - Au 26	Jl 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	S - Au 17	S - Au x	S - Au 20	-	-	-	Jl 8	-	S - Au 10
Spotted Sandpiper	S - Sp 14	-	-	-	Au 15	-	-	-	-	H	S - Sp 25	-	Jl 6 Au 30
Solitary Sandpiper	Sp 8 Sp 14	-	-	A	Au 15	-	Au 5	-	-	-	Jl 17 Sp 29	-	Jl 6 Au 15
Greater Yellowlegs	Sp 28 Oc 5	-	-	A	Au 15	Sp 4	-	-	-	-	Au 4 Oc 22	-	Au 7 Oc 12
Yellowlegs sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 17 Sp 25	-	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	Oc 5	-	-	A	Au 13 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 28 Oc 2	-	Jl 18 Oc 12
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 11	-	-
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 17 Au 20	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	Au 13	Au 28	-	-	-	-	Jl 15 Oc 27	-	Jl 8 Sp 29
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 4	-	Sp 13
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	Au 13	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 20 Oc 6	-	Jl 18 Oc 12
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 20 Oc 12	-	Jl 18 Sp 3
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 Oc 2	-	-

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 20 Sp 28	-	Jl 18 Au 13
Western Sandpiper	Sp 11	-	-	-	Au 15	-	-	-	Au 19	-	Au 24 Sp 7	-	-
Peep	-	-	-	-	Au 13 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 5 Oc 6	-	Oc 2
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 29	-	Sp 2 No 2
Dowitcher sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Oc 2	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	Au 15 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	Au 11 Oc 6	-	-
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 11	-	-
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sp 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 1 Sp 26	-	-
American Avocet	Oc 18	-	-	-	Au 16 Au 29	Au 20 Au 28	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 14 Oc 15
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	-	-	Au 13 Au 21	Au 20 Sp 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Phalarope	-	-	-	-	Au 13	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 27	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 26 Sp 26	-	-	-	-	No 16 De 7	-	Oc 2 No 18
Herring/ Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	Sp 11 De 2	-	No 10	-	-	-	P	-	Oc 15	-	Jl 28 De 4	-	Sp 26 No 28
Franklin's Gull	Sp 10	-	-	-	Au 13	-	Jl 1 Sp 23	-	-	-	Au 17 No 3	-	Sp 21 Oc 24
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 28 Oc 2	-	Au 22
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 22
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	Au 15	-	-	-	-	-	Au 11 Sp 5	-	-
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 30	-	Sp 17 Sp 19
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	Au 15 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 20 Sp 14	-	Au 23
Rock Dove	P	-	-	A B	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	H	P

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Mourning Dove	S - De 14	-	Sp 21	A	S - Oc 30	S - Sp 30	S - No 2	S - De 6	S - De 21	H	S - - W	H	S - De 7
Ringed Turtle Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Note
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	Au 1 Au 26	-	Jl 7 Jl 17	S - Au 15	S - Sp 23	-	S - Oc 9	-	S - Sp 17
Cuckoo sp.	Jl 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 4 Jl 25	-	-	-	-
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Jl 4	-	-	-	S - Jl 4	H	S - Sp 8
Screech Owl	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	-	P	-	P
Great Horned Owl	P	-	-	-	P	-	P	P	P	H	P	-	P
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	Late Dec.	-	De 28 - W	-	-	-	No 6 De 13	-	De 10
Burrowing Owl	S - Jl 20	-	-	-	-	-	Au x	Jl 3 Au 10	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	P
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 20 De 29	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 27	-	-
Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 15 De 22	-	-
Poor-will	Jl 7 Au 18	Sp 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Nighthawk	S - Sp 17	-	-	-	Au 12 Sp 15	S - Sp x	S - Sp 20	-	S - Oc 11	-	S - Oc 6	-	S - Oc 10
Chimney Swift	S - Au 18	-	-	-	S - Au 15	-	S - Jl 29	S - Au 23	S - Oc 6	-	S - Oc 11	H	S - Oc 17
White-throated Swift	S - Au 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 29 Sp 2	-	-	-	S - Sp 3
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Jl 31 Au 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	Jl 30 Au 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	S - De 25	-	-	A	Sp 6	-	S - No 10	S - De 3	Au 19 De 21	-	S - De 31	-	S - De 28
Common Flicker	P	-	P	A B	P	S - Sp 23	P	P	P	H	P	-	P

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 10	P	P	H	P	-	P
Red-headed Woodpecker	Au 8 Sp 28	Sp 13	-	-	-	Sp 6	S - Sp 8	S - Au 10	S - Sp 22	-	S - De 31	H	S - Oc 9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	No 30 De 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 18 De 23	-	De 23 De 28
Hairy Woodpecker	P	-	-	-	Au 17 No 5	-	P	P	P	H	P	-	P
Downy Woodpecker	P	-	-	B	-	Sp 7 Sp 8	P	P	P	H	P	H	P
Eastern Kingbird	S - Sp 8	Sp 14	-	A	S - Sp 16	S - Sp 15	S - Sp 29	S - Sp 16	S - Sp 20	-	S - Sp 13	H	S - Sp 7
Western Kingbird	S - Sp 8	Sp 13	-	A	S - Sp 7	S - Sp 15	S - Sp 16	S - Sp 5	S - Sp 8	-	S - Sp 2	-	S - Au 22
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Note
Great Crested Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 2	-	S - Sp 13	-	S - Sp 6
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 8 Oc 9	-	S - Oc 13
Say's Phoebe	S - Sp 15	Sp 14	-	-	Sp 16	Jl 27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 11 Sp 21	-	Sp 10
Acadian Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Sp 19	-	S - Jl 28
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 14 Sp 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 16	-	-
Least Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 15	-	Au 29 Sp 19	-	Sp 3 Sp 14
Empidonax sp.	-	-	-	-	Jl 26 Sp 5	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 30 Sp 19	-	Jl 20 Sp 8
Eastern Wood Pewee	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 1	-	-	-	Jl 6 Sp 16	-	S - Sp 7
Western Wood Pewee	S - Sp 1	-	-	-	Jl 2 Au 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	Au 26	-	-	-	-	-	Au 29 Sp 20	-	Au 30 Sp 8
Horned Lark	P	-	P	A B	P	P	P	P	P	H	P	-	P
Violet-green	Jl 14	-	-	-	Au 26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 14 Oc 2	-	S - Oc 22
Bank Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 26 Sp 1	S - Sp 3	Au 10 Au 20	-	Au 23 Sp 27	-	S - Oc 3
Rough-winged Swallow	S - Au 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 3	-	-	S - Oc 6	H	S - Sp 13
Barn Swallow	S - Oc 5	Sp 6	-	A	S - Sp 28	S - Sp 10	S - Oc 1	S - Sp 13	S - Oc 16	-	S - Oc 27	H	S - Oc 22
Cliff Swallow	S - Sp 2	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 1	-	-	-	Au 28 Sp 26	-	Au 10 Oc 3
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	S - Au 27	-	S - Au 6	S - Au 10	S - Sp 20	-	S - Sp 11	H	S - Sp 16
Blue Jay	P	-	P	A	P	Sp 28	P	P	P	H	P	H	P
Black-billed Magpie	P	-	P	A B	P	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	-
Common Crow	P	-	-	A B	P	-	P	P	P	H	P	-	P
Pinon Jay	Oc 5 De 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	P	-	P	A B	Au 1 Oc 20	-	P	P	P	H	P	-	P
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	De 8	-	-	-	Oc 11 - W	No 13 - W	P	H	P	-	P
Red-breasted Nuthatch	P	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 11 - W	De 20 De 21	No 20 De 21	-	Sp 20 - W	-	Oc 10 De 28
Brown Creeper	Oc 3 - W	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 25 - W	Sp 3 De 3	Sp 10 - W	-	Sp 22 - W	-	S - De 11
House Wren	S - Oc 10	Sp 15	-	A	Au 12 Oc 11	S - Sp 4	S - Oc 5	S - Sp 2	S - Oc 22	-	S - Oc 13	H	S - Sp 24
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	De 22 De 31	-	Oc 5 - W
Bewick's Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 12	-	-	-	Sp 5	-	-
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - De 28
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 20	-	Jl 20 Oc 26	-	-
Short-billed Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Oc 9	-	Sp 7
Rock Wren	S - Sp 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Mockingbird	Oc 21	-	-	-	Jl 10	-	No 6 - W	Jl 10 Au 15	-	-	S - Au 3	-	De 29 - W
Gray Catbird	Au 30 Sp 24	-	-	A	Au 28 Oc 4	Sp 8 Sp 23	Au 29 Sp 18	S - Au 31	S - Sp 16	-	S - Sp 22	-	S - Sp 29
Brown Thrasher	Sp 8 De 31	Sp 6	-	-	S - Sp 26	S - Sp 30	S - Sp 17	S - Sp 14	S - Sp 12	-	S - De 31	-	S - De 17
American Robin	P	-	-	A B	P	S - Sp 30	P	P	P	H	P	H	S - De 15
Wood Thrush	Sp 20 Sp 23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Oc 5
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	Oc 18	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 21	-	Oc 5 De 14
Swainson's Thrush	Sp 12 Sp 22	-	-	-	Sp 1 Sp 17	Sp 13 Sp 15	Sp 12	-	-	-	Sp 2 Sp 28	-	Au 31 Sp 17
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Sp 17	-	-
Veery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 12	-	-	Sp 11 Sp 12	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	S - Oc 5	-	No 1	-	-	-	S - Oc 27	S - De 3	S - No 2	H	P	-	P
Mountain Bluebird	S - Oc 20	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Townsend's Solitaire	Sp 25 - W	Sp 4	-	B	Oc 11 - W	Sp 15 Sp 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	No 4 De 22	-	-	B	Oc 21 No 7	-	No 19	-	Oc 29 De 21	-	Au 21 De 31	-	Oc 5 De 28
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oc 3 Oc 5	-	-	B	Oc 11 No 21	Sp 23 Sp 25	No 12 No 19	-	Sp 2 Oc 29	-	Au 28 De 31	-	Sp 20 De 28
Water Pipit	Sp 11 Oc 21	-	-	-	-	Sp 6	-	-	-	-	Sp 17 Oc 27	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	Oc 18 Oc 27	-	-	-	Sp 24 Oc 4	Sp 7 Sp 29	No 7	-	Au 10 - W	-	Sp 21 De 22	-	Jl 7 De 28
Northern Shrike	Au 28 - W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shrike sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 9 Au 10	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	S - Sp 3	-	De 1	-	-	-	Oc 18	S - Sp 13	-	-	S - De 8	H	S - Jl 30
Starling	P	-	-	A B	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	H	P
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 30

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 22	-	S - Sp 20	-	S - Sp 8	-	S - Sp 15
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	-	-	-	Sp 15 Sp 16	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 18	-	S - Au 30
Solitary Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Oc 3	-	Sp 14 Sp 29
Red-eyed Vireo	S - Au 8	-	-	A	Au 15 Sp 2	-	Jl 10	-	Au 12 Sp 20	-	Sp 2 Sp 22	-	S - Sp 14
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 14	-	Au 11 Sp 22	-	Au 21 Sp 21
Warbling Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au x	S - Au 30	S - Sp 20	-	S - Sp 19	-	S - Sp 12
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	Sp 12	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 1 Sp 17	-	Au 31 Sp 7
Prothonotary Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Jl 13
Golden-winged Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 6
Blue-winged Warb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 6
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 23	Sp 24	-	Sp 2 Oc 9	-	Sp 7 Sp 16
Orange-crowned Warbler	Au 12 Oc 5	-	-	-	Sp 18 Oc 19	Sp 13 Sp 25	-	-	Sp 24	-	Sp 11 Oc 14	-	Sp 7 Oc 5
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19	-	-	-	Sp 2 Oc 13	-	Sp 4 Oc 3
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22	-	-
Yellow Warbler	S - Sp 10	-	-	-	Au 15 Au 29	Au 30	S - Sp 11	S - Au 10	Jl 1 Oc 12	-	S - Oc 14	-	S - Sp 28
Magnolia Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 17 Oc 19	-	Sp 6 Sp 28
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28 Sp 29
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	Oc 8 Oc 11	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19 Sp 20	-	Oc 13 Oc 15
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Sp 27 Oc 7	-	-	-	Sp 22 Oc 16	-	Au 11 Sp 11	-	Oc 12 Oc 18	H	Sp 8 Oc 30	-	Sp 5 De 7
Townsend's W.	Sp 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Green Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Oc 6	-	Sp 15 Oc 5
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	-	-	Sp 30 Oc 1	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Sp 19	-	Au 31 Oc 19

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lanc- str	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19	-	-	-	Oc 14	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 16 Sp 17	-	-
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 10	-	Sp 11 Oc 7	-	Sp 4 Sp 6
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 17 Sp 22	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 27	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	Au 25 Oc 11	Au 16 Au 30	-	-	-	-	Sp 6 Sp 22	-	S - Sp 11
Nor. Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 29	-	Sp 30
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 15 Sp 17	-	S - Jl 21
Connecticut Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 14	-	Sp 4 Sp 6
Mourning Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 4 Oc 7	-	Sp 5 Oc 24
Macgillivray's W.	-	-	-	-	Oc 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	S - Au 2	-	-	-	Jl 10 Sp 20	Note	S - Sp 24	S - Au 15	-	-	S - Oc 24	-	S - Oc 15
Yellow-breasted Chat	S - Sp 22	-	-	-	Au 21 Sp 15	Au 23 Sp 15	Au 9	S - Sp 3	Jl 12	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	Sp 22	-	-	-	Au 24 Oc 4	Au 29 Sp 27	Sp 2 Sp 19	-	-	-	Au 28 Sp 26	-	Au 30 Oc 5
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 25 Oc 9	-	Sp 2 Sp 14
American Redstart	Oc 5	-	-	-	Au 15 Sp 17	Au 26 Au 30	-	-	Jl 7 Sp 12	-	Sp 3 Sp 17	-	S - Sp 14
House Sparrow	P	-	P	A B	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	H	P
Bobolink	S - Jl 9	-	-	-	Au 21	-	S - Jl 1	S - Jl 15	-	-	S - Sp 7	-	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 15	-	-	S - De 29	H	-
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	B	-	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P
Western Meadowlark	P	-	-	A	P	S - Sp 30	P	P	-	H	S - De 29	H	S - Oc 26

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Yellow-headed Blackbird	S - Oc 4	-	-	A	-	Sp 3	-	-	S - Oc 12	-	S - Oc 2	-	S - Sp 16
Red-winged Blackbird	S - De 14	Sp 28	-	A	-	S - Sp 30	S - De 31	S - Au 19	S - No 12	-	S - De 31	-	S - - W
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	A	S - Au 16	S - Au 25	S - Au 31	S - Au 24	-	-	S - Sp 1	-	S - Sp 4
Northern Oriole	S - Sp 4	-	-	A	S - Sp 12	-	S - Au 31	S - Sp 3	S - Sp 8	-	S - Sp 11	-	S - Sp 2
Rusty Blackbird	Sp 23 Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	De 21	-	Sp 5 Oc 27	-	Oc 21 - W
Brewer's Blackbird	Sp 19 Oc 7	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 27	-	-	-	Sp 9 De 28	-	Au 29 Sp 2
Common Grackle	S - Oc 27	Oc 3	-	A	S - Oc 9	S - Sp 30	S - No 10	S - No 1	S - - W	H	S - De 31	-	S - De 14
Brown-headed Cowbird	S - Oc 5	Sp 28	-	-	-	-	S - No x	S - Au 31	S - Oc 16	-	S - De 31	-	S - De 28
Western Tanager	-	-	-	-	Oc 3 Oc 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 1	-	-	-	Sp 20 Oc 3	-	S - Jl 21
Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	H	P
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 5 Au 2	S - Sp 23	-	S - Sp 20	-	S - No 22
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sp 4 Sp 9	-	-	-	Au 22	Sp 14	-	-	-	-	Sp 8	-	-
Blue Grosbeak	S - Au 24	-	-	-	Au 6	S - Jl 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 22
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 10	-	S - Sp 2	H	S - Sp 5
Lazuli Bunting	Jl 2 Au 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 1	S - Jl 29	S - Sp 16	S - Au 3	-	S - Sp 27	-	S - Au 22
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 23 - W	-	Oc 9 No 12
House Finch	P	-	-	-	Oc 17	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	P	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 16	-	De 21	-	-	-	De 14
Am. Goldfinch	P	-	-	A	P	-	P	P	P	H	P	-	P
Rufous-sided Towhee	S - Oc 5	Sp 27	-	A	Sp 15 Oc 22	Sp 1 Sp 30	S - Au 16	S - Au 3	Oc 11 De 25	-	Sp 22 Oc 13	-	S - Oc 27

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lancstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Lark Bunting	S - Sp 14	Sp 14	-	A	Sp 13	S - Sp 8	S - Jl 22	S - Au 10	S - Sp 10	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 28 - Oc 27		Sp 17 Oc 26
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 13	Au 20	-	S - Oc 6	-	S - Oc 26
Henslow's Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 6	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22 - Oc 28		Sp 5
Sharp-tailed Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	Sp 9 Oc 5	Oc 12	-	-	-	Sp 4 Sp 21	-	-	-	-	Oc 11 - Oc 26		Sp 5 Sp 13
Lark Sparrow	S - Sp 14	Sp 3	-	A	-	S - Sp 4	Jl 25 Au 6	Jl 15 Au 23	-	-	-	-	Sp 17
Cassin's Sparrow	-	-	-	A	S - Au 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	Oc 5 - W	-	No 2 - W	B	Sp 25 - W	-	Sp 29 - W	Oc 3 - W	Oc 14 - W	H	Sp 26 - W	-	Sp 28 - W
Gray-headed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28 Sp 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Sparrow	Oc 10 - W	Oc 8	-	B	Oc 22 - W	-	Oc 23 - W	Oc 23 - W	Oc 12 - W	-	Oc 6 - W	-	Sp 28 - W
Chipping Sparrow	S - Oc 5	-	-	-	Sp 4	-	Jl 1 Sp 21	S - Au 28	Oc 18	-	S - Oc 20	-	S - Sp 18
Clay-colored Sparrow	Sp 11 Oc 5	-	-	-	Au 27 Sp 18	Sp 7 Sp 23	-	-	Oc 18	-	Sp 18 - Sp 28		Sp 17
Brewer's Sparrow	Sp 4 Oc 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	De 14	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 30	Oc 11	Jl 3 Au 20	S - Oc 6	-	S - Oc 30	H	S - Oc 19
Harris' Sparrow	Oc 24 - W	Oc 30	-	-	Sp 30 - W	Sp 29	Oc 19 No 4	Oc 23 No 3	Oc 24 - W	H	Sp 16 - W	-	Oc 5 - W
White-crowned Sparrow	Sp 23 De 27	-	Oc 12	-	Sp 17 Oc 9	Sp 23 Oc 30	Oc 19	No 4	Oc 16	-	Sp 22 - Oc 15		Sp 28 De 14
White-throated Sparrow	Sp 24 Sp 30	-	Oc 12	-	Oc 9 Oc 12	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 18 - De 31		Sp 23 No 2
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 6 De 6	-	-	-	Oc 8 - De 22		Sp 28 No 17
Lincoln's Sparrow	Sp 2 Oc 5	-	-	-	Sp 16 Oc 19	Sp 25	-	-	-	-	Sp 11 - Oc 27		Sp 15 Oc 26
Swamp Sparrow	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 24 - Oc 27		Sp 28 Oc 12

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher-ry	L M	Per-kins	McPh.	Lin-coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lan-cstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Song Sparrow	Sp 1 - W	-	-	-	-	-	Jl	x Au 13 No 12	Oc 15	H	P	-	P
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 10 - W	-	Oc 26 De 30	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 12

grown-up Easter ducklings. A Ringed Turtle Dove was seen from 7 August 1974 to early January of 1975 (*NBR* 42:62 and 43:13). It had a private band on it. On the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Bill Fiske wrote: "As near as I can recall it was on 10 September, late in the day, that my wife and I observed a flycatcher in our back yard at 1717 Bowie Drive, Omaha. The bird's tail clearly exceeded the body length of the bird. In the very limited time that we could observe the bird through our glasses it appeared to be darker than the immature picture in *Birds of North America*, but it was at dusk on a cloudy day. The length of the tail and the separation of the tail into two separate "scissor blades" when the bird left its perch after insects lead us to believe it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher." Two Grebes-either Horned or Eared - were seen 18 November, too far away on too dark a day to be sure. Ruth Green had a Northern Oriole on her feeder 1 December. Mockingbirds appeared at the year's end in at least two widely separated areas.

Hall, Grand Island, 72 species, William Schleicher (reporter).

Howard, see Hall.

Keith (L.M. for Lake McConaughy area), 52 species and the possibility that the "Meadowlark species" included Eastern Meadowlarks, Mrs. Jerry Sejkora (reporter). This covers two visits (18 August, A, and 27 October, B) to the area. Records of other visits were misplaced.

Knox (KX), 29 species, Dr. Norma Johnson (reporter). Birds reported by Dr. Johnson from a 10 October visit. She reports that one of the Yellow-rumped Warblers was a perfect specimen of the Audubon's Warbler.

Lancaster, Lincoln, 221 species and the possibility that the "Empidonax species" included a Willow Flycatcher. Daryl Giblin, Shirley Doole, Dr. Norma Johnson, and Dr. Esther Bennett (reporters), Bryce Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Margaret Giblin, Theodore Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. John Ott, Don Mullison, and Hazel Scheiber. The Greater Scaup was seen at Twin Lakes, and recognized by the white in the wing, which extended to near the wingtips. The Surf Scoter was seen at Stagecoach Lake. Its wings were all dark, and it had two lighter round spots on the side of the head, one near the bill, the other below and behind the eye. The Red Knot was seen at Branched Oak Lake, still mostly in spring plumage: a large sandpiper with reddish-pink breast and underparts, with color extending up neck to cheeks, mottled white and brown on back, wing, and tail, buffy wing stripe and greenish legs. The Peregrine Falcon was seen near Palmyra (Otoe county). It was a little larger than a crow, with long pointed wings and long narrow tail. Seen from below and the head not seen, but the lack of black wingpits distinguished it from a Prairie Falcon. The Pine Warbler was at Chet Ager Nature Center. It was a large warbler, solid unmarked olive from cap to tail, yellowish eye line and ring, dark olive wings with two large white wingbars, dirty-yellow on chin and part-way down breast turning dirty-white to coverts, light gray streaking along side, triangular tail spots, dark

legs. It was a sluggish bird with deliberate habits like a nuthatch as it searched for food along the major branches. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Stagecoach Lake. It was a small, dark, sparrow with short pointed tail, solid dark crown, dark back with lighter streaking, light streaking along sides and breast against a grayish-orange background, dark ear patch in orange triangle on side of head. The foregoing were reported by Daryl Giblin, and the Scoter, Red Knot, Pine Warbler, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow were also seen by Mrs. Giblin, an experienced birder. Bryce Anderson, Shirley Doole, and Mabel Ott also saw the Pine Warbler. Dr. Bennett (Chet Ager Nature Center) reported: "The Canada Geese dates may or may not be our birds. I know some were attracted in and they circled but didn't land one morning. Our pair raised four young successfully. Three birds from Pioneers Park joined them, as did a Snow Gooce. All are over-wintering on our pond, as is one Wood Duck (male) and two Mallards. A large flock of Mallards (probably 100 or more birds) is staying at the first pond in Pioneers Park." A Great Egret was seen 11 to 14 July on Herkimer Lake, 4 miles north of Hickman, by Theodore Kirk. The observations were made between 4:00 and 7:30PM, and the entire time was occupied in feeding. Another one was reported from 6 to 11 September by Dr. Bennett and Daryl Giblin.

Lincoln, North Platte and Hershey, 118 species and the possibility that one of the "Herring/Ring-billed Gulls" was a Herring Gull, and that one of the "Meadowlark species" was an Eastern Meadowlark. Mrs. M. A. Cox and Mrs. E. C. Logan for the Tout Bird Club (reporters). The Mountain Bluebirds were seen in Cottonwood Canyon by Margaret Morton. This is the third year that a Mockingbird has come to Catherine Viehmeyer's for the winter. At least five Snowy Owls were in the area. The Kites - nine of them - were seen by Bill Niehus, a falconer, near Bignell, which once had a store and post office but now exists only as a place name. It is on the south river road, south of Interstate 80 and of the Platte, between North Platte and Maxwell. He is the one who saw the Kites in the spring of 1974 (*NBR* 42:74) and the details of that record are now available - two seen 19 May.

McPherson, Tryon, 69 species. Mrs. Oona Bassett (reporter). She saw a pair of Yellowthroats (not included in the 69 count) but didn't make a note of the date. She left the ranch for the winter 30 September so the winter birds are not included, and the last dates are too early for those birds that stayed after that time.

Perkins, Grant, 105 species and the certainty that the "Empidonax species" were at least one more, and the possibility that some of the "Peep" were not the kind that were identified as to species. Mrs. Jerry Sejkora (reporter). The Yellow-throated Vireo was a first. It was identified by the bright yellow throat, yellow spectacles, and heavy bill. Chickadees may be permanent residents in the area, but not on their farm. They wonder if it is the same Townsend's Solitaire that has returned for the third winter to the area of their shelterbelt.

Sarpy, see Douglas.

Scotts Bluff, Scottsbluff, 136 species, Mrs. Roy J. Witschy (reporter) Mrs. M. A. Banghart, Lydia Bolz, Mrs. J. J. Brashear, Mrs. LeRoy Kenitz. The Poorwill was at the Brashear ranch, and the Broad-tailed Hummingbird and Townsend's Warbler were at the Bashear farm. The Field and the Brewer's Sparrows were seen by Mrs. Banghart, Mrs. Brasher, and Mrs. Bolz. The Rosches, of Crawford, were with the Nature Club on its Fall Count Day, when the Swamp Sparrow was found. They are very familiar with it.

SOME WATERFOWL BREEDING RECORDS FOR LANCASTER COUNTY

During the summers of 1970-72 I censused the reservoirs of the Salt Creek watershed (primarily located in Lancaster County) for breeding pairs, nests, and broods of waterfowl (Cink, unpublished data). These censuses revealed evidence for the breeding of several species of ducks for which I could find no published accounts. This note documents my observations of these species for future consideration of their distribution in eastern Nebraska. The age given to broods follows the criteria set forth in Gollop and Marshall (1954).

Species Accounts

Gadwall - *Anas strepera* In addition to the brood found during the summer of 1970 (Cink, 1971), I observed a brood of seven young (28-38 days old) and a female Gadwall on Branched Oak Lake on 15 July 1972. Broods of Mallard and Blue-winged Teal occupied the same cove on the west side of the reservoir where human disturbance was minimal.

Pintail - *Anas acuta* An adult female of this species flushed from the grassy bank on the inlet to Conestoga Lake on 18 June 1972. It fluttered and thrashed about on the water in the injury-feigning behavior characteristic of a hen with a nest or young hidden nearby. I could find no nest but after searching the shoreline for some time I did flush two young (19-23 days old) which fluttered into the water and disappeared in a patch of emergent vegetation. In 1971 (8 June) I observed a female Pintail and her brood of six young (13-18 days old) on Twin Lakes in Seward County, just five and a half miles northwest of Conestoga. Pairs of Pintails and lone individuals were observed on several reservoirs in the Salt Creek watershed during the course of my study but these two broods were the only evidence of the Pintail actually breeding. Although Rapp et al. (1958) note that this species breeds in the "Sandhill Region", I can find no reference to breeding birds occurring in southeastern Nebraska. Baxter and Wolfe (1971) note that the Pintail is one of the three primary nesting species of ducks in the rainwater basin region of south-central Nebraska. In a five year period Evans and Wolfe (1967) found 37 nests and observed 30 broods of this species on their study areas in Clay County. This is approximately 60 miles west of the Salt Creek watershed.

Northern Shoveler - *Anas clypeata* A female Shoveler and brood of eight young (7-13 days old) were observed on the north end of Bluestem Lake on 18 June 1972. A brood of six young was observed in the same vicinity on this reservoir on 1 July. The age of these individuals (18-27 days old) indicates that they were probably the same family observed in June. On 24 July 1971 I observed a brood of five young (45-50 days old) and a female Shoveler on Branched Oak Lake. Although these young were nearly as large as the adult female they still couldn't fly. The Shoveler is regarded as "a common breeder in suitable localities throughout the state" by Rapp et al. (1958) but there appear to be no recent published breeding records for southeastern Nebraska. Wolcott (1901) reports seeing a male "Spoonbill" on Salt Lake (now Capital Beach) on 29 June 1900 and notes that species had been known

to breed there. Evans and Wolfe (1967) found 13 broods and five nests during the five year study in the rainwater basin area.

Ruddy Duck - *Oxyura jamaicensis* A female Ruddy Duck and her brood of three young (approximately 15-25 days old, though Gollop and Marshall don't treat this species in their paper) were discovered on the marshy inlet to a small farm impoundment (60 acres) southwest of Sprague (Section 7, T-7N, R-6E) on the evening of 25 June 1972. During my three year study several pairs of Ruddy Ducks were seen during the early breeding season but no lone individuals or nests were ever observed during the summer. On the basis of this single brood the species appears to be quite rare and local as a breeding bird in Lancaster County. Rapp et al. (1958) note that this species is a common breeder on the "Sandhill Lakes of Garden, Morrill and Cherry Counties" but make no mention of its status in southeastern Nebraska. Evans and Wolfe (1967) found five broods of Ruddy Ducks on their study area near Clay Center.

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ANHINGA SEEN IN NEBRASKA AGAIN

On 27 April 1975, at approximately 10:30 in the morning, I found an Anhinga on a marsh area about .75 miles nothwest of Wolbach. It was a cold, cloudy, windy day. When I first sighted it I thought it might be a cormorant, but when I was closer I saw white on its wings and the top of its tail. It also had a much longer tail than a cormorant.

It was sitting in a dead tree to the west of the marsh, and remained there for the whole hour I watched it. Its only activity was to constantly be stretching its neck up and down or rubbing its head over its back feathers. It also would stretch out its wings several tims. I returned to the marsh on 28 April and never saw it. It was late in the afternoon, though, when I was there so it may have been there earlier.

On 30 April Vera Coons and Verneil Griffin of Grand Island came up

to go out to the marsh with me. We arrived about 10:30 that morning and the Anhinga was in a dead tree to the west of the marsh. Vera had a telescope which we put up. We watched the bird for about an hour. The telescope let us see even more detail, and showed the long, sharply-pointed bill. They both agreed that it definitely was an Anhinga, and since Vera had seen many of them on trips to the South I definitely feel that is what it was. This time it did not stay in the tree all the time but made three short flights over the marsh. We noticed it would soar for short distances while flying. Each time it would return to the dead tree and sit there for a while before taking off again. The last time it circled the marsh in several widening circles and then flew off to the south. We remained at the marsh until 3:30 that afternoon but never saw it again. I went out to the marsh along with Vera again 1 May and we didn't see it from 10 to 12.

—*Jan Faeh, Wolback*

The *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* says of the Anhinga: "Accidental. One record from Buffalo County (Swenk, 1918:113) 11. The Swenk reference is to Revisory Notes on the List of Nebraska Birds, *Wilson Bulletin* 30:112. This appears to be the only previous record of the Anhinga in Nebraska.

A MONK PARAKEET IN THE KEARNEY AREA

My ornithology class and I saw a Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) on 6 May 1975. It was midafternoon, and we were at the Cottonmill Lake city-county park, a mile or so west of Kearney. The first indication of the bird's presence was an unfamiliar rather loud call. This was given only a few times, but helped us locate the bird in an American elm tree about 150 feet away. We studied it with binoculars and telescope for several minutes, then proceeded slowly toward the perch tree. The bird did not become alarmed, but permitted us to come within about 25 feet of it. We observed it for several minutes at this close range, specifically noting its salient features.

The bird was about the size of a Mourning Dove. It had a fairly long tail, a gray, scaly-looking throat, yellow belly, and greenish back. Its primary feathers seemed quite dark. It ate the young fruits or buds of the tree in which it sat, facing us most of the time, then flew away while we were momentarily distracted elsewhere. It was not seen again.

—*John C. W. Bliese, Kearney*

The only known previous record of the Monk Parakeet in Nebraska is that of a pair that were seen in the Omaha area the winter of 1972-1973 (*NBR* 41:15).

BOOK REVIEWS

Minnesota Birds Where, When, and How Many. Janet C. Green and Robert B. Jansen. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, xviii & 217 p. One color plate, 20 black-and-white photographs, 106 maps. 1975 $9.75.

The subtitle on the cover of this hard-cover book- A field guide to the distribution of 374 species in Minnesota - just about sums up the book. The birds themselves are not described. The locations at times may be by townships, but no more specific than that. Two short sections - Notes on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Maps, and Geography and Ecology of Minnesota's Birdlife - preceed the individual species accounts. There is a selected bibliography and an index. The book will be useful for those who want to know the general area in which a particular species probably can be found and

when, and so would be of interest to those birders who vacation in Minnesota or are interested enough in increasing their life list to make a special trip to Minnesota. Ed.

Ocean Wanderers. R. M. Lockley. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg. Nine color plates, 29 black-and-white photographs, 22 maps, incidental drawings by Robert Gillmor, 168 p. $15.00.

This discussion of the migratory seabirds of the world has six introductory chapters - Origin and evolution, Adaptations to ocean-going, Behavior, Ocean feeding grounds, Expert navigators, and Man and sea birds - before seven chapters, each covering a group of related seabirds. The information on an individual species is generally less in quantity than that given (for those species which might be found in it) in Audubon Water Bird Guide for example, and is less comprehensive in that it covers primarily those ways in which the species has adapted to the particular problems it faces. Consequently this is a book for those who are curious about those birds which live mostly on the open seas - their evolution, their adaptations, their problems - in general, rather than about a particular species, though the first six chapters probably would be useful even in that case. Ed.

NOTES

WHOOPING CRANES. Nebraska State Game officials reported that there were sixteen Whooping Cranes sighted in Nebraska during the first week in November 1974. Two were sighted near the new Audubon Reserve southwest of Gibbon and two at the Funk Basin north of Funk.

—George W. Brown, Kearney

In late November 1974 the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife reported that its personnel had seen and photographed two adult Wooping Cranes in the main channel of the Platte River, near Kearney. The birds were observed for two days. It is not clear whether these were the birds mentioned above as seen near the new Audubon Reserve or whether these were an additional sighting.

SNOWY PLOVERS. It is always enjoyable to add a new bird to one's life list, and when it concerns a bird unusual enough to be listed as "accidental" for Nebraska (*Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds*, Rapp et al, 1958), it even becomes a bit exciting.

My wife and I saw a single Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) on two occasions: 20 June and again on 29 June 1974. In each case the bird was on a muddy shore or in the nearby shallow water of a marsh located 3.5 miles northeast of Funk, Nebraska. In addition, I saw two of the Plovers in the same locality on 25 June while on a field trip with my ornithology class.

In all three instances the birds were observed with binoculars and telescope, under bright sky, and all the field marks listed in several bird guides were seen clearly. The Plovers were never more than 300 feet from us, and one was even as close as an estimated 100 feet. They were actively engaged in searching for food, and gave us ample opportunity to observe them. We heard no calls at any time. Although we visited this marsh several times after 29 June we did not see the birds again.

— John C. W. Bliese, Kearney

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SNOWY OWL. On 6 March 1974, while heading out to Grand Island to see the Sandhill Cranes, I spotted a Snowy Owl sitting on a post by the Interstate, just before the turnoff to Hampton (Hamilton County). It took off and landed in the field. We noted the place and spotted the Owl again on our way back, though it was so far off we certainly wouldn't have seen it if we hadn't been looking for it.

—*Shirley Doole, Lincoln*

Reports of a large white owl sighted around the UNL city campus had been filtering in to me for about a week. No positive identification had been made and I suspected that it was no more than a Barn Owl. As I drove to campus on the morning of 7 March 1974 I spotted a large white bird perched on the west edge of the roof of the stage area of the UNL coliseum. Even without binoculars it was obviously a Snowy Owl. Others seeing the bird that morning included: James T. Billings, Harvey Gunderson, Thomas Thorson, Carl Gugler, and Paul Johnsgard. It was not seen on campus after this sighting.

—*Raymond S. Goldstein, Lincoln*

OWLS, HAWK. On 1 December 1974 I was riding a horse in our stock fields and was able to approach very close to a Snowy Owl. Later I flushed a Barn Owl out of the stock. A Marsh Hawk was sailing over the fields.

—*Sam Antholz, Cook*

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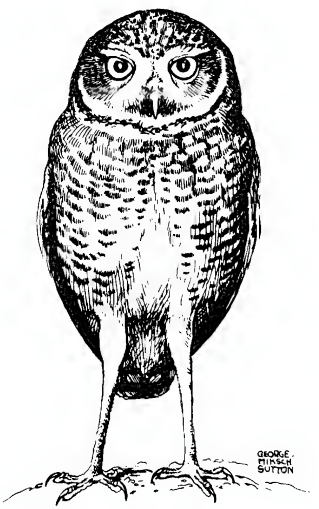

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1975 (FIFTIETH) SPRING MIGRATION AND OCCURRENCE REPORT

This report lists 290 species, from eleven localities. The count would have been higher if any of the Empidonax sp. or Peep had been identified as ones not included in the list. The comparative figures for 1974 are 286 species from eleven localities; 1973, 272 from twelve localities; and 1972, 274 from ten.

The symbols used in the tabulation are:

Ja, Fe, Mr, Ap, My, and Je for the months

W - to indicate a species which was reported present before 1 January

- S to indicate a species which was reported as remaining after 30 June

x when no exact date in the month was given

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas-Sarpy
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 18	-	-	-	Ap 21 My 3	Ap 6 Ap 15
Horned Grebe	-	Ap 22	Ap 11 Ap 16	-	-	My 24	-	My 10	-	Ap 6 My 3	Ap 7 Ap 27
Eared Grebe	-	-	My 8	-	My 18 Je 30	Ap 11	-	-	Ap 24	Ap 8 My 18	Ap 17 My 1
Western Grebe	-	-	Ap 13 My 24	-	My 25 Je 30	My 13	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	Ap 12 My 24	My 21	My 25	My 18	-	Mr 19 My 28	Mr 23 My 10	Ap 5 My 9	Mr 27 My 21
White Pelican	-	Ap 17	Ap 12 Ap 30	Ap 30 - S	-	Ap 20	-	-	Ap 8	Ap 21 Ap 30	Ap 6 Ap 21
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	Ap 20 My 24	Ap 23 - S	-	Ap 18	-	-	-	Ap 5 My 7	Mr 14 My 10
Great Blue Heron	-	Mr 11 - S	Mr 22 - S	Ap 5 - S	My 18 - S	Fe 9 - S	My 25 Je 28	-	Ap 5 - S	Mr 20 My 18	Mr 22 - S
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	My 15	My 24 My 25	-	Ap 7 My 9	My 6 Je 8	Ap 17 - S
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 5	-	My 10
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 9
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 7 Je 8
Snowy Egret	-	-	My 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	My 2 My 9	-	My 18 - S	Ap 24 - S	-	My 10	Ap 10 Ap 24	Ap 21	Ap 21 My 21

P to indicate a species which is present all year, although the same individual birds may not be present during the whole year, and the number of birds present may vary greatly during the year. (W - S indicates much the same thing, but it is used in cases which are considered to be special situations rather than the normal pattern.)

Two dates indicate the first and last record for the area. The information is presented in a rough west (left) to east (right) order, with areas of about the same longitude presented in a north to south order. The names of reporters (and other observers, if known) and any special comments are given below in alphabetical order by counties. The number of species for each report is shown in parentheses. In making this count "Peep," "Empidonax sp.", "Meadowlark sp.", and the like are not counted if a specific species is also listed.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 11	My 17 My 21
Least Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 11	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	My 5 - S	-	My 18	-	-	Ap 24	Ap 22 My 11	-
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 24	-	-
White-faced Ibis	Ap 9	-	Ap 18 My 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29 My 5	-
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 6	-
Swan sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 19 Ap 15	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	Mr 17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	Fe 17 Ap 10	W - My 24	Mr 28	-	Ja 4 Mr 20	-	Mr 20	Fe 26 Ap 24	P	Mr 18 My 3
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 20 My 10	Fe 28 Ap 24	Mr 16 Ap 27	Mr 19 My 3
Snow Goose	-	Fe 28	Mr 3 Mr 4	-	-	-	-	Mr 22 Ap 8	Fe 28 Ap 4	Mr 20 Ap 22	Mr 17 Ap 21
Mallard	Ap 9 - S	Ja 1 - S	P	P	My 25 - S	P	-	Mr 20 Je 3	Fe 20 Je 8	P	Mr 4 My 21
Gadwall	Ap 9 - S	Ap 15 - S	Mr 13 My 24	-	-	Ap 11	-	-	Mr 5 Ap 24	Mr 22 My 10	Mr 22 My 20
Pintail	Ap 9 - S	Mr 5 - S	Fe 27 Ap 15	Ap 5 - S	My 18 - S	Mr 15 Ap 5	-	Fe 20 My 10	Fe 27 My 10	Mr 16 Ap 20	Mr 22 My 20
Green-winged Teal	Ap 9 - S	Mr 11 - S	Ap 4 My 24	Ap 12	-	Mr 20	-	My 10	Mr 3 My 10	Mr 20 My 17	Mr 22 My 4

Adams (120), Hastings; Miss Bernice Welch (reporter), Brooking Bird Club members, including Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Duane Huber, Mrs. Clifford Kennedy, and Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, Mrs. A. A. Albert observed the Winter Wren at very close range when it found its way into her screened-in porch.

Cherry (91), Valentine; Doug Ballard (reporter).

Clay (109), Sutton; Miss Bernice Welch (reporter), Duane Huber, Eldon and Ruth Percival. The Woodcock was seen on a path just a few yards from the Percival's porch. The Hudsonian Godwits (fifteen) were seen at a dam on the Percival's farm. Mr. Percival couldn't identify them when he first saw them, so he came home for binoculars and Peterson's guides. The Percivals observed the Godwits for some time.

Dawes (93), Chadron; Doris Gates (reporter). The dates for the migrants are mostly just the first dates - the Swifts, for instance, were there

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas Sarpy
Blue-winged Teal	Ap 9 - S	Ap 3 - S	Ap 3 - S	-	My 18 - S	Ap 9 - S	-	Ap 17 My 10	Mr 20 My 11	Mr 20 My 17	Mr 21 My 31
Cinnamon Teal	-	Ap 30	My 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	Ap 9	Mr 31 My 24	Fe 27 My 24	My 19	My 25 Je 12	Ap 22 My 18	-	Mr 30	Mr 5 Ap 24	Mr 20 Ap 27	Mr 22 My 4
Northern Shoveler	Ap 9 - S	Mr 11 - S	Mr 5 My 24	Mr 23	My 25 - S	Mr 17 Ap 20	-	My 10	Mr 20 My 10	Mr 18 My 15	Mr 30 Je 24
Wood Duck	-	-	Ap 11	-	-	Ap 5	-	-	Mr 16 Ap 8	Ja 19 - S	Mr 20 - S
Redhead	Mr 19	Mr 5 My 24	Fe 28 My 24	Mr 1	My 25 Je 30	Mr 15 Ap 19	-	Mr 30 Ap 8	Mr 1 Ap 4	Mr 22 My 11	Mr 22 Ap 28
Ring-necked Duck	-	Ap 22 Ap 24	Ap 10 Ap 18	Mr 23 Mr 31	My 25 Je 12	Mr 15	-	-	-	Mr 20 Ap 30	Mr 22 My 1
Canvasback	-	Mr 11	Ap 4 Ap 10	Mr 23 Ap 5	Je 12	Mr 18 My 4	-	Ap 8 My 10	Mr 6 Ap 5	Mr 22 My 3	Mr 22 Ap 23
Lesser Scaup	Mr 19	Mr 5 Mr 10	Mr 12 My 24	Mr 23	-	Mr 11 Mr 17	-	Mr 17 My 10	Mr 1 My 10	Mr 22 My 17	Mr 20 My 21
Common Goldeneye	-	-	Ap 12	Ja 1 Mr 31	-	Mr 23	-	-	-	Mr 22 Ap 20	Fe 1 Ap 21
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 18	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	Ap 23	Ap 18 My 2	Mr 23 Ap 12	-	Mr 8 My 7	-	Ap 17	-	Mr 22 My 3	Mr 22 My 10
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 6	Ap 5
Ruddy Duck	-	-	Ap 11 Ap 17	My 19	My 18 Je 30	Mr 15 Ap 10	-	Mr 16 Mr 19	Ap 4 Ap 24	Mr 22 My 17	Mr 23 Ap 23

for a couple of days at least. The White-faced Ibis was seen on a slough north-west of Chadron. She goes by the area every day, but saw the bird just once. The wintering Blue Jays were in a protected yard with lots of pines. She saw, just once, a small flock - maybe five or so - of Grackles in Chadron in the middle of winter, and a neighbor reported seeing a Rufous-sided Towhee in the middle of winter.

Douglas (and Sarpy) (220); Bellevue, Ruth Green and Carl Swanson; Omaha, R. G. Cortelyou and Melba Wigg (reporters); Tanya Bray, Graham Chisholm, Evelyn Conrad, Daryl Giblin, Ruth Green, Mary Harberg, Clyde and Emma Johnson, Teta Kain, Alice Rushton, Andy Saunders, Julie Schroeder, Roger Sharpe, Gertrude Wood. The Red Knot was seen at Boys' Town lake by Mary Harberg and Wanda Neaderhiser. Its large size and ruddy breast attracted their attention, and the identification was completed

Hooded Meeganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 27 My 15	Mr 20 Ap 8
Common Merganser	Mr 19	Fe 28	Fe 2 Ap 30	Mr 23 Ap 12	-	Mr 8	-	-	-	Mr 22 Ap 19	Fe 1 My 17
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 29 Ap 30	Mr 25 Ap 23
Turkey Vulture	Ap 8 - S	-	Ap 20 - S	Ap 27 - S	-	Ap 5 Je 24	-	-	-	Ap 8 My 7	Mr 8 My 26
Mississippi Kite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 26
Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fe 22 Mr 2	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W - My 3	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	Fe 17	-	-	-	Mr 22 Ap 27	Mr 31
Red-tailed Hawk	P	My 10 - S	P	Ja 1 Ap 27	-	P	Ap 20 My 24	P	P	P	P
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 19 Ap 27
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 17 Ap 26	Ap 4 Je 8
Swainson's Hawk	-	Ap 24 - S	Ja 12 - S	-	-	Ja 13 - S	-	-	Ap 9	Mr 31 Ap 27	Ap 12 My 10
Rough-legged Hawk	W - Ap 11	Ja 1 Mr 15	W - Fe 27	Ja 10 Mr 23	-	Ja 3 Ja 13	-	-	-	W - Mr 27	Fe 24 Ap 5
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	My 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

by means of a scope and field guides. The Mississippi Kite apparently was first seen by Julie Schroeder, but many other observers got to see it before the day was over. It was near the marsh-lake in Fontenelle Forest, which is the same area in which the last such observation was made, ten years ago (*NBR* 33:49). The first part of April Mary Denney, who lives near Memorial Park, heard what she took for small bird sounds, but looked up and saw big birds flying overhead. When Polly Richardson, who used to live in Dawes and Box Butte counties, was told of the incident she said that the description of the noise sounded like Sandhill Cranes and that she thought that was probably what they were. A Snowy Egret was seen on the Iowa side of the river across from Plattsmouth 27 April, and Roger Sharpe reported Cattle Egrets on the Iowa side south of Omaha area in mid-May. The

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	Mcph.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas-Sarpy
Golden Eagle	P	P	P	-	-	Ja 13	-	-	-	Ap 20	Mr 20
Bald Eagle	-	-	W - Mr 30	Ja 1 Mr 13	-	W - Ap 4	W - Fe 22	-	Ja 13	Mr 19	W - Ap 21
Marsh Hawk	P	P	P	P	-	P	Ap 20	W - Mr 20	Mr 4 My 6	W - Ap 27	Mr 22 Ap 12
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 19 Ap 28
Prairie Falcon	P	P	-	-	-	Fe 7 Ap 3	-	-	Ap 17	Fe 23 Ap 28	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	Ja 22	-	-	-	-	-
Merlin	-	-	W - Ap 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	P	P	P	Ap 5	My 30 - S	P	-	My 10	Mr 30 Ap 29	P	P
Greater Prairie Chicken	-	-	-	-	S	P	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-
Bobwhite	-	-	P	P	Je 17	P	P	P	P	P	P
Ring-necked Pheasant	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Turkey	P	P	P	P	-	P	-	-	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	My 2	Mr 11 Mr 13	Mr 26	-	-	Ja 17 Ap 26	Ap 25	Ja 26 Ap 8	Fe 27 Mr 30	Ap 20	Note
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 10	-

last observations of the wintering Mockingbirds was reported 8 February; the date shown in the tabulation presumably was for a migrant. An early Wood Duck was reported 17 January, an early individual Grackle was seen 23 January, a White-throated Sparrow 7 January, and a Fox Sparrow 5 Howard (86), Grand Island, Bill Schleicher (reporter). He reports an individual of the western race of the Rufous-sided Towhee on 28 April.

Lancaster (219), Lincoln; Esther Bennett, Shirley Doole, Daryl Giblin, Norma Johnson, Cliff Toews (reporters), Mabel Ott, members of Audubon Naturalists Club. Mr. Giblin's report area included Twin Lakes, Seward County, and Ceresco, Saunders County. Dr. Johnson commented that there seemed to be more of both species of Cuckoos, Kinglets, and Orioles, and that Field and Vesper Sparrows were abundant, while Eastern Bluebirds and Savannah Sparrows were fewer. An early Brown Thrasher was re-

Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 15 Ap 24	Ap 27 My 24	Ap 21
Common Gallinule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 23 My 15	-
American Coot	-	Ap 10 - S	Ap 15 - S	Ap 8 - S	My 15 - S	Ap 11 - S	-	My 10	Mr 20 My 10	Mr 22 My 17	Mr 22 Je 5
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	My 8 My 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29 Ap 30	Ap 27 My 14
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 20 My 3	-
Killdeer	Mr 20 - S	Mr 11 - S	W - - S	Mr 22 - S	My 19 - S	Mr 13 - S	Ap 28 - S	Mr 13 - S	Mr 18 - S	Mr 16 - S	Mr 18 - S
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	My 19	-	My 18	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29	My 17
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 12	-	Ap 8
Common Snipe	-	Ap 23 - S	P	-	-	Ap 15	-	-	Ap 10 Ap 24	Ap 10 My 13	Mr 23 Ap 29
Long-billed Curlew	Ap 14 - S	Ap 15 - S	My 20 - S	Ap 8 - S	My 15 - S	Ap 6 - S	-	-	-	-	-
Upland Sandpiper	-	My 25 - S	My 15 - S	My 2 - S	My 25 - S	Ap 22 - S	-	-	-	My 18	Ap 27 Je 28
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	My 8 - S	-	My 25	My 18	-	My 3 My 10	-	Ap 20 My 17	Ap 27 My 18
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29 My 15	Ap 20 My 18
Greater Yellowlegs	-	Ap 19 My 12	Ap 22	-	-	Ap 4	-	-	-	Ap 8 Ap 29	Mr 28 Ap 28

ported on 7 March. Dr. Bennett reported that a thrush, from the description a Hermit Thrush (it didn't appear while she was watching for it), was seen frequently during the winter until late March. On 15 May Mr. Giblin heard a call which sounded exactely like that of a White-necked Raven (he had heard them previously elsewhere). He tried to catch up with the bird but was not successful and Dr. Bennett and the Otts, whom he came upon in his search, had not heard nor seen anything unusual.

Lincoln (163), Hershey, Mrs. Morris A. Cox, and North Platte, Mrs. E. C. Logan for Tout Bird Club (reporters). The Mockingbird that wintered at Mrs. Viehmeyer's was last seen 25 April, the date shown in the tabulation presumably was a migrant. The Barrow's Goldeneye was seen by Margaret Morton. The count at the Bald Eagle roost "in tall cottonwoods on

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Dougsarpy
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	Ap 15	Ap 18	-	-	Ap 13	-	-	-	Ap 8 My 13	Ap 10 My 19
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 15
Willet	-	Ap 23	My 3 My 8	Ap 12 - S	Je 14	-	-	-	-	Ap 27 My 3	Ap 19
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	My 8	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 24	Ap 5 My 13	Mr 29 My 20
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 30	My 10 My 19
Baird's Sandpiper	-	My 1 My 24	My 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 15 Ap 30	Ap 27 My 19
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	My 8	-	My 10	-	Ap 8 My 15	My 10 My 15
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 14
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 27	-	My 10	-	Ap 17 My 3	My 10 My 26
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29	My 10
Peep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 27 - S	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 6 Ap 29	Mr 26
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	-	-

Highway 30" was 24 on 11 February, 37 on 18 February, 47 on 19 February, and 5 on 4 April.

McPherson (79), Tryon; Mrs. Oona Bassett (reporter). The absence of dates for winter birds, and the mid-May for many birds are due to the fact that Mrs. Bassett did not return to the ranch until mid-May. She comments that Shrikes should be present but are hard to find since the telephone lines were put underground.

Sarpy, see Douglas.

Scotts Bluff (150), Scottsbluff; Mrs. Roy J. Witschy (reporter), The Summer Tanager was seen at Lottie Whitney's farm east of town, by Mary Ann Banghart and Lydia Bolz.

Sioux (120), Mitchell; Helen Hughson (reporter).

Long-billed Dowitcher	-	Ap 22 My 10	-	-	My 18 Je 2	-	-	-	-	My 3 My 10	-
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29	My 18
Marbled Godwit	-	-	Ap 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hudsonian Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 14	Ap 20	My 10 My 18
American Avocet	Ap 30	My 9 - S	Ap 16 My 24	-	My 25	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 18 Ap 20
Wilson's Phalarope	My 6	My 1 - S	My 4 My 24	My 19	My 25 Je 30	Ap 26	-	My 10	-	Ap 20 My 7	Ap 20 My 20
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 1 My 18	-	-	-	Ap 12	Mr 25 Ap 21
Ring-billed Gull	Ap 9	Ap 2 - S	Mr 22 My 24	Ap 5 - S	-	P	-	Ap 19 My 10	-	Mr 22 My 10	Mr 22 My 4
Franklin's Gull	Ap 7	Ap 23	Ap 12 Je 27	Ap 8		Mr 22 My x	-	Ap 20 My 10	Mr 10 My 9	Mr 23 My 10	Mr 26 My 20
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 10	Ap 20 Ap 30	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 20 My 6	My 14
Forster's/Common Tern	-	-	My 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 29 Ap 30	Ap 25
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Je 7 Je 28

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Doug-Sarpy
Black Tern	My 21	My 13 - S	My 15 - S	My 19	My 25 Je 25	-	-	Je 20	-	My 5 My 18	Ap 25 Je 5
Rock Dove	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Mourning Dove	Ap 8 - S	Ap 13 - S	W - - S	Ap 5 - S	My 15 - S	Ap 5 - S	Mr 14 - S	W - - S	Mr 31 - S	W - - S	W - - S
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	Je 13 - S	-	-	My 18 - S	My 22 - S	Ap 26 - S	-	My 20 - S	My 11 - S
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 1 - S	Je 4 - S	My 10 - S	My 21 - S
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 4	Ap 24	-
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	Fe 28	-	-	-	P	P
Great Horned Owl	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Snowy Owl	-	Fe 27	-	-	-	Ja 14	-	-	-	Fe 23	-
Burrowing Owl	-	Ap 22 - S	My 4 - S	-	-	My 18 - S	My 22 - S	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	My 16	-	-	-	W - Ja 15	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 28	-	-
Whip-poor-will	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 5	-	-	-	-
Poor-will	Ap 27 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

YOUNG MOUNTAIN PLOVER SEEN IN KIMBALL COUNTY

On 7 June 1975, while I was investigating an area in western Kimball County for swift fox, I saw an adult Mountain Plover (now *Charadrius montanus*, formerly *Eupoda montana*). Since the actions of the bird (short flights followed by short rapid running on the ground) indicated a diversion, a nest search was conducted. Although the nest was not located, one younger Plover approximately one-half grown was found.

The nesting area, located about seven miles west of Bushnell, can be described as a midgrass prairie in fair range condition, with a topography of flat valleys and long, gradually sloped hills. Although surrounding lands are being used primarily for farming (wheat), the nesting area itself is part of a narrow strip of native prairie that extends into Nebraska from Wyoming.

Nesting studies conducted in Colorado indicated that Mountain Plovers avoid tall vegetation; that they preferred instead to nest on the flat, heavily grazed prairies of buffalo grass and blue gramma grass. Three eggs are usually laid in each nest, which consists of a shallow depression in the ground. Recent Colorado studies have also revealed that Mountain Plovers exhibit a very rare nesting characteristic: the female lays a clutch of eggs for her mate. He attends the nest alone and raises the resultant brood. Within about two weeks after laying her first clutch, the female lays a second clutch which she attends herself.

Rapp et al, *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds*, 1958, describes the Mountain Plover as a rare migrant and breeder in the western third of the state. However, information on the present status of the breeding popula-

Common Nighthawk	Je 2 - S	My 26 - S	My 23 - S	Je 4 - S	Je 3 - S	My 13 - S	My 3 - S	Ap 25 - S	My 28 - S	My 8 - S	Ap 18 - S
Chimney Swift	My 21	-	My 6 - S	Ap 24 - S	-	Ap 23 - S	My 4 - S	Ap 19 - S	My 3 - S	Ap 17 - S	Mr 27 - S
White-throated Swift	-	-	My 24 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 12	My 7 - S
Belted Kingfisher	-	P	P	Ap 8 - S	-	Ja 13 - S	Mr 3 - S	My 10	-	P	Mr 19 - S
Common Flicker	P	P	P	P	My 25 - S	P	P	P	P	P	P
Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fe 8 Fe 10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P
Red-headed Woodpecker	My 13 - S	My 18 - S	My 10 - S	My 8	-	My 3 - S	My 3 - S	My 5 - S	Ap 29 - S	W - S	Ja 25 - S
Lewis' Woodpecker	-	Je 10 Je 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 9 Ap 23	Ja 18 Ap 9
Hairy Woodpecker	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Downy Woodpecker	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eastern Kingbird	My 8 - S	My 11 - S	My 8 - S	My 18 - S	My 19 - S	My 3 - S	Ap 28 - S	My 1 - S	My 6 - S	Ap 24 - S	Ap 17 - S

tion is essentially non-existent. After many hours of unsuccessful searching in the past three years, Richard Rosche, of Crawford, (pers. comm.) believes that the Mountain Plover may no longer be a part of the state's avifauna. Conversion of grasslands to cropland over the past several years has undoubtedly had adverse affect on this species. Since it is very probable that the Mountain Plover in Nebraska may be in an endangered or threatened status, research of the species will be essential to the development of a program that will ensure a place for it in the future.

Ross A. Lock, Non-game Specialist
Wildlife Division
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Lincoln, Nebraska

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas Sarpy
Western Kingbird	My 5 - S	My 7 - S	Ap 30 - S	My 9 - S	My 19 - S	My 3 - S	My 3 - S	Ap 25 - S	Ap 27 - S	Ap 25 - S	My 1 - S
Great Crested Flycatcher	My 25 - S	-	-	-	-	-	Je 17 - S	My 22 - S	-	My 2 - S	Mr 31 - S
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	My 27	Mr 29 - S	-	-	-	Ap 4 - S	Mr 31 Je 8
Say's Phoebe	Ap 15 - S	My 7 - S	Ap 15 - S	-	-	Ap 21 - S	-	-	Ap 30	-	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	My 20 My 27	-	-	-	-	-	My 1 My 10
Acadian Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 1 Je 30	-
Willow Flycatcher	-	My 23 My 25	-	-	-	-	-	My 10	-	My 2 Je 20	Je 19
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	My 22 Je 13	-	-	-	-	-	Je 4
Least Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	-	Ap 12 My 10	-	My 3 My 24	Ap 29 My 21
Empidonax sp.	-	-	My 23	-	-	My 13 My 18	-	-	-	Ap 26 My 24	My 2 My 26
Eastern Wood Pewee	-	-	-	-	Je 4	-	-	-	-	My 2 Je 8	Ap 24 - S
Western Wood Pewee	My 25 - S	My 25 - S	My 20 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 2 My 12	My 4 My 27

NOTES

GREAT EGRET. Twice in 1974 I observed the Great Egret, *Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin), in Nebraska. The first observation occurred 27 April, when I sighted a lone bird along the shore of a farm pond approximately 3.5 miles south of Brainard in Butler County. On 11 July Bob Hyer, Dick Kennedy, and I observed five of the birds in flight approximately 5 miles north of Silver Creek in Nance County. That location is within the wetland area which borders the margin of the Sandhills area lying between the Loup River and Prairie Creek.

—*Thomas F. Pesek, Lincoln*

SWANS. On 15 March 1975 a friend, Mrs. Adams, who lives on a ranch north of Hyannis, called to tell me that there were two swans on her lake.

Horned Lark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Violet-green Swallow	-	-	My 2 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Je 6	Mr 23 Je 15	Ap 13 - S
Bank Swallow	-	-	My 24	-	-	My 18 - S	My 4 - S	My 10	Je [illegible]	Ap 27 My 20	[illegible] Je 25
Rough-winged Swallow	Ap 30 - S	My 7 - S	Ap 17 - S	Ap 30 - S	-	My 18 - S	My 3 - S	My 10	-	Mr 27 - S	Ap 16 Je 26
Barn Swallow	Ap 22 - S	Ap 24 - S	Ap 20 - S	My 9 - S	My 15 - S	Ap 19 - S	Ap 28 - S	Ap 20 - S	Ap 16 - S	Ap 15 - S	Ap 19 - S
Cliff Swallow	-	Ap 23 - S	My 8 - S	My 6 - S	-	Ap 19 - S	My 4 - S	-	Je 6	Ap 21 My 20	Ap 26 Je 20
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 12 - S	Ap 17 - S	Ap 4 - S	Ap 25 - S	Ap 1 - S	Mr 28 - S
Blue Jay	P	P	P	P	My 29 - S	P	P	P	P	P	P
Black-billed Magpie	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	-	-
White-necked Raven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Note	-
Common Crow	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Pinon Jay	P	P	-	-	-	Mr 27	-	-	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 14 My 17	P
White-breasted Nuthatch	P	P	-	-	-	My 18	W - Ap 20	P	P	P	P

I made the 30-mile drive, partly over sandhill roads, to her ranch in Cherry County. The two swans and two Canada Geese were on the lake. It was a first for me and a beautiful sight. I could not determine whether they were Whistling or Trumpeter Swans. Mrs. Adams has seen them now and then on the same lake since I saw them, and saw two last week (Written 17 May).

—*Opal Bilstein, Hyannis*

CINNAMON TEAL. We saw a male Cinnamon Teal about two miles south of the southwest corner of Ft. Kearney State Park 30 March 1974. We noticed three small ducks as they approached a pond. I thought, from the flashing blue on their wings, that they were Blue-winged Teal. When they landed we discovered that they were one male Cinnamon Teal, one male Blue-winged Teal, and a female teal. The Cinnamon Teal was courting the female, following her and bobbing his head. The Blue-winged Teal paid no attention to her. We watched for several minutes until they disappeared

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas Sarpy
Red-breasted Nuthatch	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	W - Ap 4	-	W - My 13	Fe 22 Ap 19
Pygmy Nuthatch	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Creeper	P	-	W - Fe 2	Ap 5	-	W - Mr 4	W - Fe 28	W - Ap 25	-	W - Ap 24	W - Je 24
House Wren	My 1 - S	My 4 - S	Mr 10 - S	-	My 20 Je 8	Ap 27 - S	Ap 28 - S	Ap 20 - S	Ap 25 - S	Ap 9 - S	Ap 12 - S
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ja 9	-	W - Ap 20	W - My 10
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 4	P
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	Ap 23 - S	My 8 - S	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	Ap 20 My 13	-
Short-billed Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 20 My 6	-
Rock Wren	-	Ap 19 - S	Ap 27 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mockingbird	My 19	Je 5 - S	My 24 - S	-	-	My 18	Ap 28 - S	-	-	Ap 22 - S	Ap 22
Gray Catbird	My 24 - S	My 16	My 11 - S	-	My 15 Je 19	My 18 - S	My 7 - S	My 5 - S	My 10 - S	Ap 12 - S	Ap 25 - S
Brown Thrasher	Ap 30 - S	My 9 - S	W - - S	My 13	My 15 - S	Fe 18 - S	Ap 28 - S	Ap 26 - S	Ap 23 - S	Ap 13 - S	Mr 10 - S
American Robin	Mr 5 - S	Fe 27 - S	P	P	My 19 - S	P	P	W - - S	Mr 5 - S	P	Fe 8 - S

behind a fold in the hills and didn't reappear.

—*Clyde Johnson, Omaha*

PRAIRIE CHICKENS, UPLAND SANDPIPERS. About the middle of May, 1974, I was preparing ground for corn on our farm 3 miles northwest of Cook, Otoe County. I saw a bird that appeared much like a hen Pheasant, but was not. I got off the tractor and could see that it was a Prairie Chicken, and when it flew to another field I was sure it was. A couple of years ago a pair of Prairie Chickens were seen quite often until one was shot. I also saw a flock of 12 Upland Sandpipers in the fields throughout the summer.

—*Sam Antholz, Cook*

FALCONS. On 1 February 1975 I saw a Prairie Falcon a few miles southwest of Minden, and a Peregrine Falcon 3 or 4 miles southwest of Hildreth.

—*Harold Turner, Minden*

Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Je 10	My 2 - S	Ap 29 - S
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	My 20 My 21	-	-	-	-	Ap 9 My 10	Ap 6 Ap 26
Swainson's Thrush	-	My 13	My 9 Je 1	-	My 15 Je 6	My 18	-	Ap 28 My 17	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My [illegible] My 17	[illegible] My 10
Veery	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 10 My 13	-	-	My 7 My 12	Ap 27 My 21
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	Ja 1 My 18	-	Mr 8 - S	Fe 3 - S	-	Ap 17 - S	P	P
Mountain Bluebird	Mr 5 - S	Mr 4 - S	Mr 8 - S	-	-	Mr 29 Ap 12	-	-	-	-	-
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	W - Fe 23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 19	-	Mr 15	W - Mr 23	W - Ap 24	W - Ap 25
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	My 24	-	-	Ap 28	-	Ap 26 My 10	-	Mr 27 My 13	Mr 25 My 10
Water Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 27 Ap 26
Sprague's Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 5
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	Fe 20	-	-	-	-	Fe 18
Cedar Waxwings	-	-	Ja 7 Je 1	Ap 24 My 5	-	Fe 14 My 18	Mr 13 Je 1	Fe 26 My 30	W - Je 26	Fe 1 Ap 8	W - Je 24

MONK PARAKEETS. In mid-August 1975 a pair of Monk Parakeets or Quaker Parrots (*Myiopsitta monachus*) was identified by a member of the Children's Zoo staff, near 27th and Highway 2. The birds were familiar to residents of the area. No effort was made to capture the birds.

—*Roger Di Silvestro, Lincoln's Children's Zoo*

BLACK-HEADED x ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. On 3 June 1974 my neighbor came over carrying a bird which had flown into her picture window. It was a Black-headed x Rose-breasted Grosbeak, with the cinnamon rump and rusty breast of the Black-headed, and a large rose colored triangle on the breast and a beautiful rose red underwing linings. The bird was still breathing so I put its beak in cold water and poured a little cold water on its head. After a little it was able to stand but did not move. I

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas Sarpy
Northern Shrike	-	-	W - Ap 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	P	Ap 19 - S	Ap 20 - S	P	-	Ap 10 - S	Ap 15 - S	My 6 - S	Ap 3 - S	Mr 16 - S	My 4 - S
Starling	-	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 19 Je 26	-
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	My 18 - S	-	Mr 20 - S	-	My 6 - S	My 14 Je 16
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	My 18 - S	-	My 1 - S	-	My 3	Ap 29 Je 30
Solitary Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	My 11	Ap 27
Red-eyed Vireo	My 22 - S	My 10 - S	My 20 - S	-	My 29	My 18 - S	My 6 - S	My 10 - S	-	My 2 - S	Ap 25 - S
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	My 11 My 13	My 11 Je 26
Warbling Vireo	My 21 - S	-	My 18 - S	-	-	My 18 - S	Ap 28 - S	My 4 - S	-	My 1 - S	Ap 27 - S
Black-and-white Warbler	My 5 - S	My 26	Ap 28 My 24	My 20	-	Ap 23	-	My 10	-	Ap 26 My 13	Ap 1 My 10
Prothonotary Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 28 Je 24
Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 13	-
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	-	My 26 My 31	-	Ap 25 Ap 30	My 9 My 18	-	My 2 My 24	Ap 23 My 31

put it on a newspaper under a plastic basket in the kitchen. After some time the bird opened its eyes and then started following my movements. When it started to fly to the side of the basket I carried him outside and set him down. After a little he flew across the yard and into my cherry tree. He sat there, never moving, for 24 hours, and then finally flew away.

— *Mrs. Kermit S. Swanson, Aurora*

BLIZZARD DEATHS. After the Easter blizzard of 1975 we found many dead birds, including Meadowlarks, Killdeer, Horned Larks, a Lapland Longspur, a Brown Creeper, and an American Kestrel. Our neighbors found many, too. We have a large shelterbelt of cedar, pine, cottonwood, and fruit trees but such storms are too severe.

—*Lola Held, Elsmere*

Orange-crowned Warbler	Ap 30	My 10 My 12	Ap 30 My 8	-	-	Ap 27	-	Ap 20 My 15	-	Ap 14 My 24	Ap 17 My 24
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	My 21 Je 2	-	-	My 4 My 16	-	Ap 14 My 15	Ap 28 My 13
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 24	Ap 28 My 24
Yellow Warbler	My 5 - S	My 15 - S	My 2 - S	My 10 My 14	My 15 Je 1	Ap 27 - S	Ap 28 - S	My 1 Je 15	My 12 Je 15	Ap 29 - S	Ap 26 - S
Magnolia Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 10	-	My 11 My 17	My 1[illegible] My 1[illegible]
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Ap 26 - S	My 4 - S	Ap 23 My 24	-	-	Ap 27	Ap 25 Ap 28	Ap 12 My 11	-	Ap 4 My 13	Fe 17 My 10
Black-throated Gray Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 11	-
Black-throated Green Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 9 My 11	My 4 Je 23
Cerulean Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 26 Je 24
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 13	My 7 My 9
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	My 3	-	Je 15	-	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 3 My 6	My 10 My 11	-	-	My 10
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 12 My 15	My 19 My 20
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	My 22 My 24	-	My 23 My 27	My 18	-	My 10 My 11	-	My 6 My 24	My 10 My 21

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Doug-Sarpy
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 26	Ap 27 Ap 29
Ovenbird	My 24 - S	-	-	-	My 25	-	-	-	-	My 6 My 15	Ap 28 - S
Northern Waterthrush	-	My 17 My 18	-	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	My 11	Ap 28 My 10
Louisiana Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	-	My 10
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 4 Je 26
Connecticut Warbler	-	-	-	-	Je 6	My 18	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Je 15	My 28	My 13 Je 2
Common Yellowthroat	My 27 - S	My 4 - S	My 23 - S	-	My 15	My 18 - S	Ap 28 - S	My 10 - S	My 8 - S	Ap 29 - S	Ap 26 - S
Yellow-breasted Chat	My 24 - S	My 23 - S	My 23 - S	My 24	My 16 Je 2	My 18	Ap 28 - S	My 12	-	-	My 27 Je 30
Hooded Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 8	Ap 27
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	Ap 27 My 22	-	My 29	-	-	Ap 26 My 11	-	My 13 My 17	Ap 27 My 10
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	-	My 29	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Redstart	My 11 - S	My 23 - S	My 19 My 24	My 14 - S	My 16 Je 1	My 18	My 10 My 16	My 10 My 23	-	My 7 Je 1	Ap 28 - S
House Sparrow	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

A SUTTON'S WARBLER?

On Sunday morning, 11 May 1975, I was standing at my kitchen window when two little birds landed on a branch of our apple tree just outside the window, about five feet from me. This was about eleven o'clock on a bright sunny morning so the lighting was excellent. I stood very still and studied the bird nearest me. It was a bluish color and it had a very clear yellow throat-patch. My first thought was "It's a blue yellow-throated Warbler". I was very excited because I had never seen one. I noticed the white streak above the eye and the black patch by the eye, white wing-bars, but the rest of the bird was blue with white underneath. It had no streaks by the breast and no color other than yellow in the throat-patch. The bird then turned to pick a worm off a nearby leaf and turned its back to me. Then I saw the yellow or actually greenish wash on its back, and

almost fell into the sink because I was then sure it was a Parula. I called to my husband to confirm what I saw, but by the time he came both birds flew up into another part of the tree. I then grabbed my field guide and tried to match what I had just seen to the pictures. The first bird I turned to was the Yellow-throated Warbler and I remember thinking "That is exactly the way its head looked, and the clear yellow patch, too". Then I remembered the back patch and turned to compare the Parula with what I had just seen, and the bodies matched. I then got out my binoculars and raced out to see if I could find them again, but could not. I had paid little attention to the second little bird except for one glance which convinced me it was a female - more drab in color. I estimate that I had the birds in view for 15 to 20 seconds. I am sure the birds were some sort of hybrids because of the difference in the coloring and the head pattern.

—*Elsie Helzer, Hastings*

Bobolink	Je 7 - S	-	My 16 - S	My 19 - S	Je 8 - S	My 15 - S	Ap 28 - S	Je 30	-	Je 2 - S	My 12 Je 28
Eastern Meadowlark	Ap 30 - S	-	-	-	-	My 8 - S	Ap 28 - S	-	-	P	Ja 3 - S
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	[illegible]
Western Meadowlark	Mr 19 - S	Fe 28 - S	P	Mr 20 - S	My 15 - S	P	Ja 30 - S	-	-	P	[illegible] - S
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	My 1 - S	Ap 5 - S	My 2 - S	My 15 - S	Mr 28 - S	My 1 My 25	Ap 17 - S	Mr 17 My 10	Ap 5 - S	Ap 9 - S
Red-winged Blackbird	Mr 19 - S	Mr 3 - S	Fe 13 - S	My 4 - S	My 15 - S	W - - S	Mr 18 - S	Mr 10 - S	Fe 4 - S	P	W - - S
Orchard Oriole	-	My 17 - S	My 9 - S	My 13	My 15 - S	My 17 - S	Ap 30 - S	Ap 29 - S	Je 18 - S	My 1 - S	My 4 - S
Northern Oriole	-	My 16 - S	My 7 - S	-	My 28 - S	My 2 - S	Ap 28 - S	Ap 29 - S	My 3 - S	Ap 29 - S	Ap 21 - S
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ja 14	W - Ap 9
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	My 24	-	-	Ap 17	-	-	Mr 17	Mr 18 Je 27	Ap 17
Common Grackle	Ap 14 - S	Ap 12 - S	Ap 5 - S	Ap 16 - S	P	Mr 11 - S	Mr 16 - S	W - - S	W - - S	W - - S	Fe 10 - S
Brown-headed Cowbird	My 1 - S	Ap 26 - S	Ap 9 - S	My 2 - S	My 25 - S	Ap 10 - S	Ap 28 - S	Ap 9 - S	Mr 24 - S	W - - S	Fe 5 - S
Western Tanager	-	My 17 - S	My 13 My 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Je 19	-	My 4 - S

SCOTT'S ORIOLE REPORTED

About 20 May 1975, as I was doing some work in the garden on my farm about three miles east of Grand Island, I heard an unusual bird song which was similar to the song of the Western Meadowlark. This bird was sitting among the leaves of a Chinese elm so at first I could not see it. About fifteen minutes later it flew to a dead tree branch and I could see it.

It had a black head and throat and the black carried back to the wings on the back. It had black wings, with white wing bars — about nine or ten short ones toward the front of the wing, and back of these some longer wing bars. The rest of the stomach, back, and part of the tail was a beautiful yellow color, about the color of a healthy lemon. It appeared to be about seven inches long.

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas Sarpy
Summer Tanager	-	-	My 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	My 13	My 4
Cardinal	-	-	My 23 My 24	Mr 25 My 6	-	P	P	P	P	P	P
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	My 23 - S	Ap 27 - S	Ap 26 - S	Ap 26 - S	Ap 26 - S
Black-headed Grosbeak	My 11 - S	My 17 - S	My 17 - S	My 14	Je 5 Je 15	My 12 My 15	-	-	-	Ap 25	-
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	My 17 - S	My 20	My 19 - S	My 18 - S	-	My 16 - S	-	-	My 12 - S
Indigo Bunting	-	My 26	-	-	-	My 18 - S	-	My 6 - S	-	My 7 - S	My 2 - S
Lazuli Bunting	-	-	My 15 - S	-	-	-	-	My 10 My 20	-	-	-
Dickcissel	Je 12 - S	-	-	-	-	My 18 - S	My 26 - S	My 23 - S	My 23 - S	My 7 - S	Ap 26 - S
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	Ap 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ja 13	-	Je 17	W - Ap 28	Ja 26 Ap 24
House Finch	-	-	P	-	-	Ja 1	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	P	-	P	-	-	-	-	Mr 22	-	Mr 3 Ap 19	Ja 27
American Goldfinch	P	My 23 - S	P	My 24	My 26	My 1 - S	P	P	P	P	P
Red Crossbill	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

I went into the house and got my bird book (*Birds of North America*) and binoculars and observed and studied it for about half an hour before it flew away. From my observations and studies I think it was a Scott's Oriole. I think it was a female or a young bird because where the black on the tail is supposed to be this bird had a drab yellow, which looked like it might be getting darker with age. I saw and studied this bird about eight times after I first saw it, and the more I observed and studied it the more convinced I became that it was a Scott's Oriole. I've lived on this farm for twenty-eight years and this is the first time I have seen or heard a bird like this.

Bill Schleicher and Vera Coons have come out and studied the bird and they are convinced that it is a Scott's Oriole. This bird did a lot of singing, which was just beautiful. The Black-headed Oriole doesn't sing much,

Green-tailed Towhee	-	My 26	My 6 My 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	Ap 22 - S	Ap 27 - S	Ap 21 - S	My 9	My 15	Ap 19 - S	Ap 28 - S	Ap 26 - S	Ap 18 My 1	Ap 13 My 11	Mr 19 - S
Lark Bunting	My 5 - S	My 2 - S	My 4 - S	My 7 - S	My 19 - S	My 7 - S	My 6 - S	-	Je 6 - S	-	My 18
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	My 18 Je 12	My 3	Ap 26	-	Ap 9 My 5	Ap 15 My 31
Grasshopper Sparrow	My 30 - S	-	-	-	Je 15 - S	My 18	Ap 28 My 23	-	-	Ap 29 - S	My 1 Je 30
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 12 My 10	-
Vesper Sparrow	Ap 8	Ap 17 - S	Ap 30 - S	-	-	Ap 28	-	-	-	Ap 7 My 3	Ap 13 My 10
Lark Sparrow	Ap 22 - S	My 7 - S	Ap 26 - S	My 3 - S	My 15 - S	My 13 - S	My 6 - S	My 10 - S	My 10 - S	Je 20 Je 29	Ap 24 My 20
Dark-eyed Junco	P	W - Ap 10	W - Ap 12	Mr 21	-	W - My 20	W - Mr 28	W - Ap 25	W - Ap 20	W - Ap 27	W - Ap 25
Gray-headed Junco	-	Ap 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Sparrow	-	W - Mr 22	W - Ap 14	Ja 5 Mr 29	-	W - My x	W - Fe 28	-	W - Ap 2	W - Ap 29	W - Ap 14
Chipping Sparrow	Ap 30 - S	My 1 - S	Ap 13 - S	My x - S	My 19 My 26	Mr 15 - S	Ap 20 - S	Ap 29 My 28	-	Ap 12 - S	Ap 14 - S
Clay-colored Sparrow	My 3	My 9 - S	My 1 My 24	-	My 16	Ap 20 My 6	My 20 My 30	Ap 25 My 28	My 9 Je 18	My 6 My 22	Ap 27 My 13
Brewer's Sparrow	-	Ap 24 - S	-	-	-	-	-	My 10	-	-	-

according to the book, so I think that would eliminate the possibility of its being a Black-headed Oriole. The bird was last seen and heard about 24 June.

—George W. Stoppkotte, Grand Island

An immature Scott's Oriole was banded at Duluth, Minnesota, 23 May 1974, and remained in the area through June (*Loon* 47:22), so this is not as far as an individual of the species has wandered. —Ed.

1975 FALL FIELD DAY

A Fall Field Day, after a lapse of several years, was held 28 September 1975. Twenty-one people participated. The area involved was around the Harlan Reservoir, and the count covered from 8 AM to 12:30 PM. It was mostly cloudy, with some intermittent light rain. Forty-five species were recorded:

	Dawes	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Cherry	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard	Adams	Clay	Lancaster	Douglas-Sarpy
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	My 18 - S	Ap 28 - S	-	-	Ap 9 - S	Mr 26 - S
Harris' Sparrow	-	-	W - My 2	-	-	Mr 27 My 7	Ap 12 Ap 28	W - My 16	W - Je 15	W - My 15	W - My 14
White-crowned Sparrow	-	My 1 My 5	W - My 24	-	My 15	Ap 22 My 18	Ap 28	Ap 25 My 16	Je 15	Fe 18 My 15	My 10
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ap 28	Ap 26 My 16	Ap 26 Je 15	W - My 15	Ap 6 My 31
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Je 7	Mr 23 Ap 20	Mr 22 Ap 21
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	My 2 My 24	My 4	-	My 15	-	-	-	-	Ap 12 My 17	Mr 25 My 14
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	My 18	-	-	-	Ap 12 My 1	Ja 18 Ap 22
Song Sparrow	-	Ap 8 Ap 11	W - My 24	Ap 13	-	Fe 11 My 18	Ja 28 My 20	Ap 16 My 16	Ap 26 My 9	W - My 24	P
McCown's Longspur	-	Ap 23 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	Mr 28	-	-	-	Mr 21 My 10	-	Ja 5 Mr 2	Mr 24
Chestnut-collared Longspur	-	Ap 28 - S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	Mr 23	-	-	-	Fe 16	Ja 20

Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue and Green Herons; Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer; Spotted and Baird's Sandpipers; Herring, Ring-billed, and Franklin's Gulls; Forster's Tern; Rock and Mourning Doves; Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher.

Common Flicker; Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers; Barn and Cliff Swallows; Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, Rufos-sided Towhee; Savannah, Vesper, and Clay-colored Sparrows.

A Field Day was held in the same area 20 September 1964. The attendance was thirty, and sixty-five species were seen (*NBR* 33:20). The day was bright, cool, and relatively calm, and the waterlevel had been run way down to facilitate repairs to the dam. This low waterlevel was reflected in eight more shore birds reported. Five more waterbirds were reported, and three more hawks. The other differences were scattered.

A JUNCO IS A JUNCO IS A JUNCO

The recent rulings of the American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature may lead bird students in such areas of east-west overlap as Oklahoma to become casual if not slovenly in their field identification of such birds as Juncos. Falling back on belief that most of the somewhat nondescript little birds are now considered "just Dark-eyed Juncoes anyway", they may pay little or no attention to important details that can and should be carefully recorded.

A point to remember is that concepts, hence rulings, are sure to change as more information becomes available. To my way of thinking, certain facts about *Junco hyemalis aikeni*, the so-called "white-winged" race of Dark-eyed Junco, may eventually make clear that that bird is a full species rather than a geographical race of *J. hyemalis*. Large looking, slightly pale juncos with more or less complete white wing-bars should be carefully described in field notes the continent over, this by way of ascertaining what the seasonal geographical range of such birds may be, just where such birds appear among breeding populations, and whether such birds are ever at all brown-backed or "pink-sided" or dark-headed. To be borne in mind is the fact that full-blooded "white-winged" birds have much white in the tail. In the Black Mesa country of Oklahoma I have many times spotted "white-winged" juncos by the very white flashes from their tails long before I could see that these same birds were a bit large and a bit pale, or that they had white wing-bars.

It must be remembered that the "lumping" of several brown-eyed forms of junco into one species does not force them, either as individuals or as populations, to abide by any human concept. They will go blithely on, obeying their own instincts, moving no farther north in the breeding season, no farther south in winter, no farther east or west on migration than certain ecological requirements and genetic makeup dictate. They care not a hoot what human beings call them.

Just why the AOU Committee continues to feel that the Gray-headed Junco (*J. caniceps*) may not be part of the "dark-eyed" conspecies is not

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at all clear to me. The form is an especially interesting one insofar as Oklahoma is concerned, for gray-headed, brown-backed, dark-eyed juncos that are not *Junco caniceps* often show up in the main body of the state-i.e. east of the 100th meridian, and some of these are reported as Gray-headed Juncos. No Oklahoma specimen of *Junco caniceps* has thus far been taken east of Texas County. Sight records for *Junco caniceps* east of the Panhandle are, in my opinion, unacceptable. This statement is not to be construed, however, as opposition to the recording in great detail of every bird that appears to be (a) very gray-headed, (b) very brown-backed, and (c) not at all brown or "pink" on the sides and flanks. What I don't approve of is the smug attitude that seems to declare: "I know my birds. The bird I saw was a Gray-headed Junco, *Junco caniceps*. It couldn't have been anything else."

When four or five Oklahoma specimens of *Junco caniceps* have been collected east of the 100th meridian, let us examine them and report on them carefully. What we find may well be worth a thousand times more than all the Oklahoma "records" of Gray-headed Juncos that have been published in *Bird-Lore, Audubon Field Notes, American Birds,* and elsewhere.

—*George M. Sutton, Norman, Oklahoma*

While Dr. Sutton's comments are directed specifically to Oklahoma, the same situation of east-west overlap exists in Nebraska.

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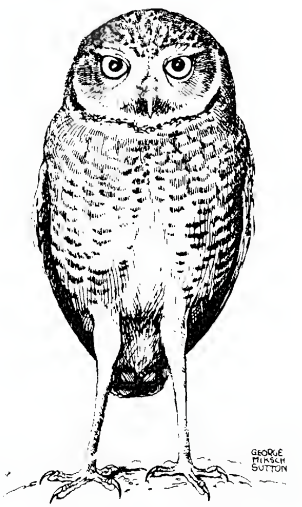

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SPRING WATERFOWL MIGRATION IN LANCASTER COUNTY - 1970

I. SPECIES COMPOSITION AND COMPARISONS WITH OTHER AREAS OF NEBRASKA

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Department of Zoology

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

INTRODUCTION

The seasonal reports found within the pages of the *Nebraska Bird Review* contain a wealth of useful information on the state's yearly waterfowl migration, including occurrence of species and their earliest and latest arrival dates. However, quantitative data are to be found only with those agencies concerned with management of waterfowl: the national wildlife refuges and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Finding information on relative abundance of different species of waterfowl in areas other than those containing a refuge is rarely possible.

In the spring of 1970 we attempted to document the migration of waterfowl in Lancaster County. Our goal was to discover the species composition of flocks using the reservoirs in the county and show how the relative abundance of different species changes during the progression of migration throughout the spring. We also wanted to compare our findings with records kept at selected wildlife refuges to the east and west of Lancaster County. Initially our plan included the evaluation of the effects of size and state of development of different reservoirs in the area on numbers and species of waterfowl using them, but this proved to be much too time consuming. We limited our extensive observations to one reservoir and periodically made additional visits to other reservoirs to record any noticeable differences. Data collected on observed sex ratios will be presented in another paper.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Our observations were made almost entirely on Yankee Hill Reservoir (Fig. 1), approximately five miles southwest of Lincoln, Nebraska (Section 19, T-9N, R-6E, Lancaster County). It was constructed by the Corps of Engineers and is administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. It occupies a total surface area of 210 acres and is approximately 30-35 feet deep at its maximum depth. The reservoir is fed by four tributaries to the Cardwell Branch of Salt Creek and it is at their inlets that most of the emergent vegetation is found.

The most abundant species of emergent plants found in the reservoir include swamp smartweed (*Polygonum coccineum*), bur arrowhead (*Sagittaria rigida*), and broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*). Submerged vegetation in-

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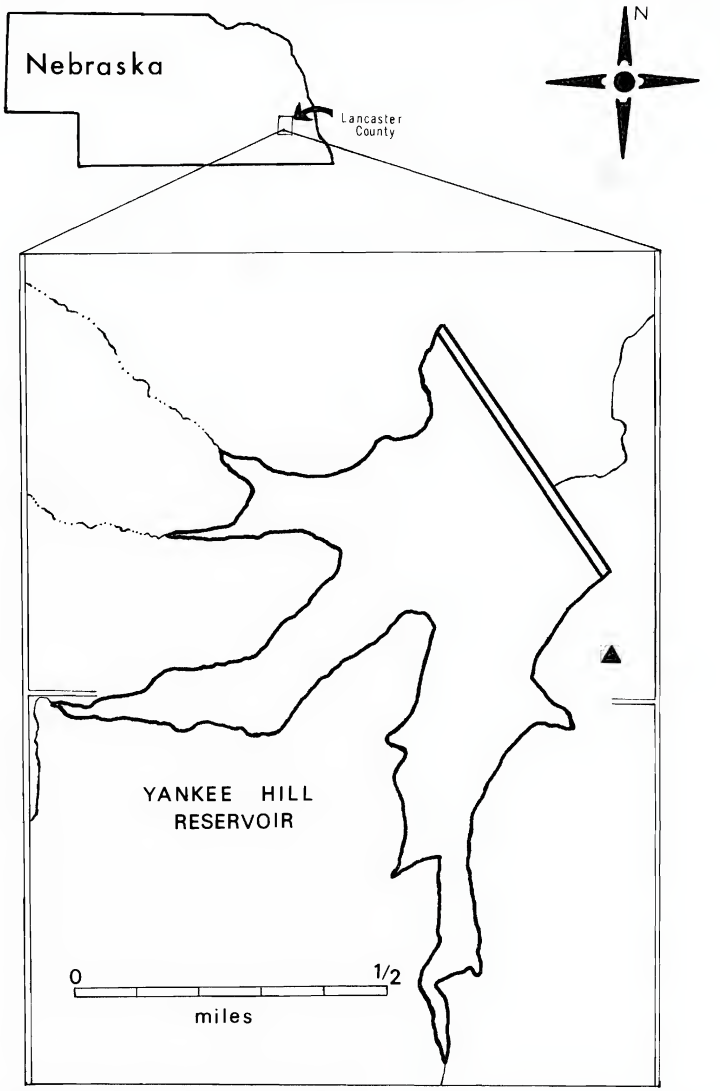


Figure 1. Map of the study area on Yankee Hill reservoir. The triangle on the east side of the reservoir indicates the vantage point from which most observations were made.

cludes northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum exalbescens*), sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), and floating pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*). Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) seedlings have invaded much of the periphery of the reservoir. The role of the vegetation in providing cover for waterfowl during the study period was negligible because it had not grown up yet. Submerged vegetation appeared to provide an ample food supply.

Public access to this reservoir was somewhat restricted with no improved roads leading to the waters edge. Outboard motors are not allowed on the lake. This enhances the reservoir as a waterfowl resting area.

METHODS

Observations were made from a point on the east side of the reservoir of sufficient height to enable us to view nearly the entire surface of the water. Two distant inlets which had considerable amount of vegetation often had to be checked by driving around to the west side of the reservoir. Three spotting scopes (32x, 20-40x, and 20-60x zoom) were used to count every bird on the shore and in the water. Each bird was identified to species and sex. No attempt was made to census those waterfowl feeding in nearby fields or flying in the vicinity of the reservoir. Censuses were made between 0700 and 0830 every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday except during the period between 28 March and 3 April when only one count was made (Friday, 3 April). Counts were initiated on 1 March when the ice went off the reservoir and ended 29 April when the size of flocks utilizing the reservoir had dwindled to one or two pairs of birds.

It is likely that some individuals remained at the lake through more than one count day. Since it was impossible to identify such individuals, we tabulated totals as "waterfowl-days" rather than as individual waterfowl. For ease of discussion of a particular count's total however, the use of number of individuals is still retained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 10,077 waterfowl-days were counted during the eight weeks of study. Of this total 1,669 waterfowl-days were counted for geese and 8,378 waterfowl-days for ducks. Three species of geese and 17 species of ducks were observed.

Figure 2 shows the peaks of migration for the geese observed on Yankee Hill Reservoir. Most of the geese were flying overhead by the time we arrived in the morning, so it is very likely that we missed some of those which had rested on the reservoir the previous night. The geese present on our arrival usually remained for the entire observation period, and occasionally a small flock came in to rest during this time. We counted 934 waterfowl-days for Canada Geese on 16 days during the study period (average 58), and found three peaks of migration; two in March and a lesser peak in mid-April. White-fronted Geese were observed on eight days during the study period (89 waterfowl-days). This species probably never showed the sharp peaks seen in the other geese because of their small numbers (average 11) but they clearly show their greatest abundance in mid-March with a gradual decrease to mid-April. We counted 676 waterfowl-days for Snow Geese on seven days during the study period (average 97) with two definite peaks noted, both of which were in March. The ratio of Snow to Blue phases for the study was 2.6 : 1. Because most of the spring flight corridors for this species focus on the Missouri River (Bellrose, 1968) we probably observed only those geese on the fringes of this corridor.

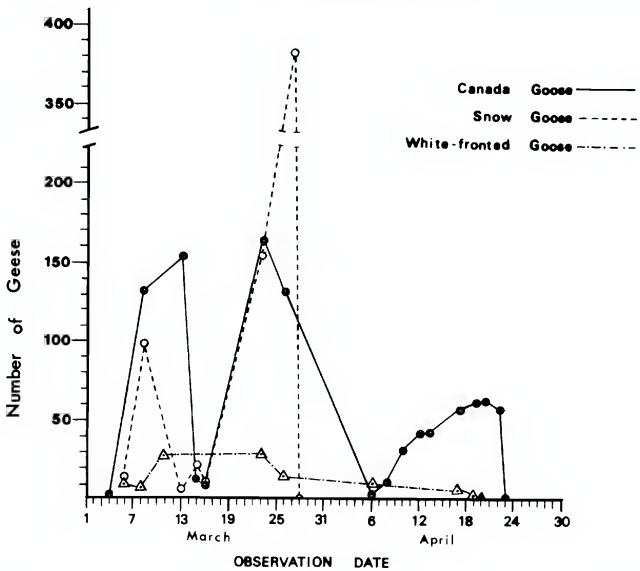


Figure 2. Peaks of the goose migration on Yankee Hill reservoir during the spring of 1970. Circles and triangles indicate actual numbers seen on a given day; connecting lines indicate trends only, not actual values for intermediate dates.

The numbers of geese observed appeared to be partly a function of reservoir size as well as degree of human disturbance. On two days of the study when small numbers of geese (15-30) were observed on Yankee Hill, large flocks of geese (100-150) were observed on Branched Oak Reservoir, about 17 miles NNW of Yankee Hill. This lake is about nine times as large as Yankee Hill and, until better access made human disturbance a factor, it drew far larger groups of resting geese and ducks. The proportions of one species to another on Branched Oak were surprisingly similar to those of Yankee Hill. Pawnee Reservoir, on the other hand, which is over three times as large as Yankee Hill had only a few small groups of geese during the entire study period. It is very accessible to human use in all types of weather and thus provides little resting area for geese.

Figure 3 shows the peaks of migration for the three most common species of dabbling ducks. We counted 1,182 waterfowl-days for Mallards on 23 days of the study period (average 51), with three main peaks occurring, all in March. We observed 689 waterfowl-days for Pintails on 18 days of the study period (average 38) with two definite peaks occurring in early March. It is obvious from the records of surrounding wildlife refuges that much of the migration of Mallards and Pintails occurs in February as well as March, so we undoubtedly missed several peaks of migration for these species. The

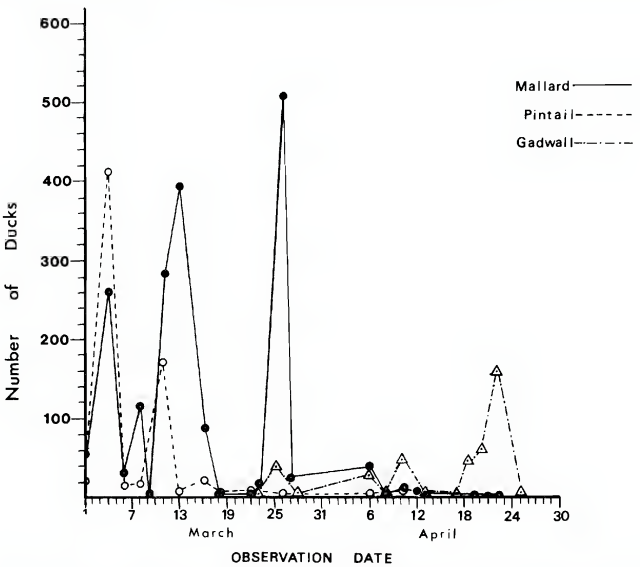


Figure 3. Peaks of migration for the most abundant species of dabbling ducks. Symbols and lines as in Fig. 2.

Gadwall was counted on 21 days of the study period (a total of 513 waterfowl-days). The sample seems small when drawn out over a long period of time but there does appear to be one definite peak which falls during mid-April.

Several other surface feeding ducks were observed whose small numbers didn't justify graphical analysis. These are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Data on species of less abundant dabblers:

Species	Waterfowl-days Counted	First Observed	Last Observed	Peak Date	Peak Number
Green-winged Teal	235	8 Mar	22 Apr	22 Apr	61
Blue-winged Teal	386	15 Mar	29 Apr	22 Apr	188
American Wigeon	412	1 Mar	29 Apr	26 Mar	134
Shoveler	343	6 Mar	29 Apr	22 Apr	80
Wood Duck	7	16 Mar	19 Apr	16 Mar	5

The peaks of migration for the two most common species of diving ducks are shown in Figure 4. The Canvasback was the most abundant duck during the study and the graph of its numbers shows five distinct peaks. The biggest peak occurred in late March. We observed 3,287 waterfowl-days for Canvasbacks during 25 days of the study period (average 131). Yankee Hill appeared to be the only one of seven reservoirs we looked at that had such a large number of Canvasbacks. The closest to it was Branched Oak which had perhaps one-fourth as many Canvasbacks on the same given day. We observed

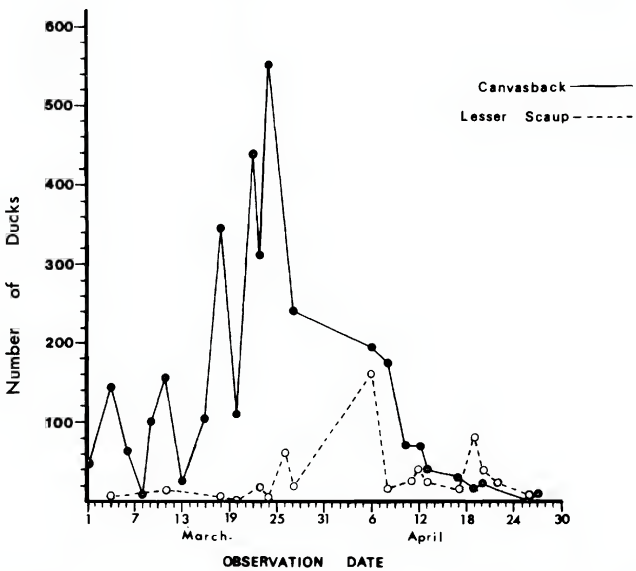


Figure 4. Peaks of migration for the most abundant species of diving ducks. Symbols and lines as in Fig. 2.

a total of 539 waterfowl-days for Lesser Scaup during 20 days of the study (average 27). Peaks were not readily apparent except for the large one that occurred during the first part of April. The peak of migration for this species seemed to cccur after that of the Canvasbacks was nearly over.

Smaller numbers of other species of diving ducks and mergansers were observed that were not graphed. To give some indication of their relative abundance with respect to the other species of waterfowl this data is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Data on the less numerous diving ducks and mergansers on Yankee Hill Reservoir.

Species	Waterfowl-days Counted	First Observed	Last Observed	Peak Date	Peak Number
Redhead	49	6 Mar	26 Apr	23 Mar	9
Ring-necked Duck	153	1 Mar	22 Apr	13 Mar	33
Common Goldeneye	7	13 Mar	16 Mar	16 Mar	6
Bufflehead	134	4 Mar	29 Apr	22 Apr	21
Ruddy Duck	185	18 Mar	27 Apr	20 Apr	39
Common Merganser	235	1 Mar	22 Apr	8 Mar	39
Red-br. Merganser	22	23 Mar	20 Apr	12 Mar	10

Very few Redheads were observed in relation to the numbers seen on other reservoirs. Pawnee Reservoir, for instance, usually had flocks of 25-100 Redheads at the same time we were observing three to six birds on Yankee

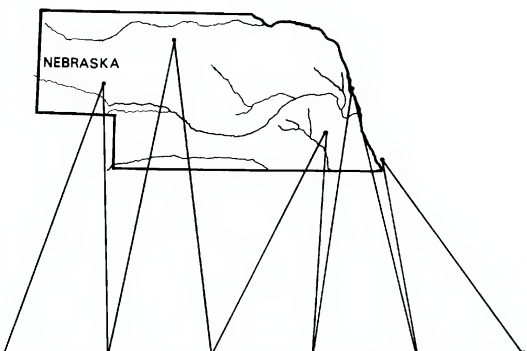
Hill. Whether this was due to association among members of the same species, feeding conditions, or some other factor was not discernable. We also noticed the same situation with Goldeneyes on the same two reservoirs.

COMPARISONS WITH REFUGES

One of the things we wished to do with our data was to compare it with that of wildlife refuges to the west and east of our study area. We obtained censuses from the refuges, but unfortunately they were not directly comparable with each other or with our data. Census techniques, dates, and frequency of censuses vary from refuge to refuge. In addition it appears that these censuses may be biased in favor of the more abundant species (e.g. Snow Geese on the Missouri River refuges). In spite of these difficulties, it was decided that some idea of distributions of species during spring migration might be gained by showing the relative composition of the total number of waterfowl recorded for each refuge. The results of this portrayal are shown in Figure 5. Unfortunately, this way of looking at the data still offers no satisfactory means of comparing species abundance because the percentage of any one species is determined by the relative numbers of the other species. However, it does show the most abundant species for each refuge and the absence of species. This is sufficient to make some general comments on distribution of species in Nebraska during spring migration.

The movement of Snow Geese, for example, appears to be oncentrated in the Missouri River valley, is notably absent from central Nebraska, and appears again in western Nebraska. This may be a reflection of the two routes, eastern and western, observed in the fall (Cooch,F. in Linduska, 1964). The movement of White-fronted Geese seems to be largely confined to the eastern half of the state, which is in agreement with the map of Miller and Schildman (in Linduska, 1964) outlining migration stops for this species. The Black Duck and Hooded Merganser appear to be most frequently observed in the eastern one-fourth of the state. Gadwall appear to be most abundant in the center of Nebraska but this may simply reflect the absence of large numbers of geese in the Valentine censuses that are present in refuges to the east and west. Ring-necked Ducks seem to be the most common in central and eastern Nebraska. Duvall (in Aldrich, 1949) shows that recoveries of this species banded in winter in Louisiana indicate that Ring-neck Duck spring migration is about equally split between the eastern half of Nebraska and western Iowa. Although Redheads appear to be most abundant in the western part of the state this may be an artifact of relative numbers of other species. Very little is known about spring migration routes for the Redhead (Weller, 1964). The same can be said of the Canvasback. Although Stewart et al. (1958) note that fall densities throughout Nebraska are approximately equal, whether or not this holds true in spring is not known. Suitability of resting areas for a particular species certainly must influence the results of censuses as much as established routes of travel. For example, the large number of Canvasbacks on Yankee Hill probably represents a suitable resting area to which the ducks were drawn and where flocks continued to grow over a number of days. Although the patterns of distribution expressed here have been sketchy, they are interesting nonetheless.

It is important to stress in conclusion that little has been said about the random errors that come from sampling such a small area. It may be largely a matter of chance that a flock of a particular species selects a reservoir as a place to rest. Similarly, once a "seed" flock has settled on the lake it may



Species	Cresent Lake NWR	Valentine NWR	Yankee Hill Reservoir	DeSoto NWR	Squaw Creek NWR
Trumpeter Swan	-	0.01	-	-	-
Canada Goose	10.35	0.19	8.67	4.05	2.67
White-fronted Goose	-	-	0.83	1.05	0.44
Snow Goose	10.65	-	6.27	41.03	80.01
Mallard	3.22	12.70	17.47	48.29	5.09
Black Duck	-	-	-	-	0.02
Gadwall	3.22	25.44	4.76	0.03	0.62
Pintail	2.43	3.26	6.39	1.22	2.03
Green-winged Teal	3.93	2.55	2.18	0.18	3.08
Blue-winged Teal	0.72	3.83	3.57	0.06	3.22
American Wigeon	5.51	3.60	3.84	1.28	0.67
Shoveler	5.34	10.51	3.18	0.24	2.02
Wood Duck	-	-	0.06	0.04	0.01
Redhead	33.39	3.59	0.45	0.02	+
Ring-necked Duck	0.19	1.89	1.42	0.01	0.01
Canvasback	2.60	3.09	30.45	0.11	+
Lesser Scaup	14.46	17.14	5.00	0.10	0.08
Common Goldeneye	1.07	0.07	0.06	0.03	-
Bufflehead	1.16	7.38	1.26	0.02	+
Ruddy Duck	1.43	4.15	1.72	0.01	0.02
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	0.03	+
Common Merganser	0.25	0.59	2.18	2.24	0.01
Red-breasted Merganser	0.05	-	0.20	-	+

Figure 5. The percent composition of total waterfowl-days recorded at Yankee Hill reservoir and four nearby national wildlife refuges during the spring of 1970. Columns may not add to 100.00 because of rounding.

induce others of the same species to land. Daily fluctuations occur undetected with the schedule we employed. Great yearly fluctuations can occur (Low, 1941). Hopefully a study in the near future will attempt to include more reservoirs in the sample, census more frequently, and census over a period of several years. The present study furnishes a place to start and the data for future comparisons.

SUMMARY

The results of censusing the waterfowl populations using a reservoir in Lancaster County during the spring of 1970 are presented. Twenty species of waterfowl were observed; a total of 10,077 waterfowl-days. Peaks of migration were noted for the most abundant species. Total numbers, peak numbers, and peak dates for all species were tabulated. Canvasbacks were the most abundant species observed, perhaps a reflection of optimum resting and feeding area provided by the reservoir. Relative abundance of each species using the reservoir and several refuges in the state during the spring of 1970 were tabulated but no comparisons could be made. An approximation of migratory routes for some of the species of waterfowl using this tabulated material was also attempted.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our thanks to Harold Burgess of Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Don R. Perkuchin of Cresent Lake NWR, Ronald D. Shupe of Valentine NWR, and the staff of DeSoto NWR for their help in securing data on the 1970 spring migration. George Schildman of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was helpful in familiarizing us with the waterfowl studies undertaken by the state biologists.

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MERLIN NEST IN NEBRASKA

On 13 June 1975, while we were examining a Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) nest on Fort Robinson State Park, a male Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) was observed flying across a small canyon formed by a line of sheer buttes on three sides. The Merlin's bluish-gray back and prominently barred tail, along with typical falcon features, were clearly evident. The male flew to the side of a female perched in a dead tree. There was considerable

vocalization on the part of both birds. Within a few minutes the female flew to a nest near the top of a large ponderosa pine tree about 85 yards directly below the butte on which we were standing. There were two eggs in the neatly shaped, cupped nest made of small sticks. Light conditions were not the best to determine accurately the color of the eggs, but they appeared to be brownish-buff with shades of chestnut. The nest was well concealed and would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to locate had it not been for presence of the female.

It could not be fully determined whether or not the clutch had been completed, since the Merlin may lay from three to six eggs, with four or five considered normal. A second check of the nest conducted two days later revealed no additional eggs. Time did not permit another nest inspection to determine if further egg laying occurred or to determine hatching success.

According to Rapp et al, *Revised Checklist of Nebraska Birds*, 1958, the Merlin is classified as a rare migrant throughout the state. Since no documentation of nesting Merlins could be found in the literature (dating back to about 1900), this case is believed to be the first that has been verified and recorded in Nebraska.

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Wildlife Division
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Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
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A GROOVE-BILLED ANI SEEN AGAIN IN NEBRASKA

About 5:00 PM on 15 October 1975 I was working in my garden, when I saw a bird sitting in one of my wild plum bushes around the outside of the garden. I saw the bird again the next morning, and called Bill Schleicher and Vera Coons. They came out and observed it from about 11:00 AM to noon. At first we thought that it was a Smooth-billed Ani because we couldn't see the grooves with our binoculars, but with Vera's telescope we

could see the grooves on the bill very clearly and identified it as a Groove-billed Ani. On 18 October Bruce Wiseman, who is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, came out and took a number of pictures. The last time I saw the bird was 1 November.

The bird flew rather slowly and awkwardly. It spent a lot of time on the ground and in the lower tree branches. Numerous times I observed this bird, in and around my garden, eating lots of grasshoppers and some strawberries. It was also in my mulberry and wild plum trees. To my knowledge, the bird didn't sing or make much of a sound.

The bird was about 14 inches long, with a tail around 7 inches long. Its main color was black, with greenish cast. It had numerous small greenish markings on the upper wings and back. The bill was large, thick, and curved. The bill was a grayish color, which extended around the eye section.

Our farm is about 3 miles east of Grand Island.

— *George W. Stoppkotte*

(A Groove-billed Ani was seen at Elgin, Antelope County, in the fall of 1952. *NBR* 21:2, *Revised Checklist of Nebraska Birds*, p. 13 Ed.)

A BROWN CREEPER'S NEST IN NEBRASKA

A Brown Creeper's nest, which Chief Naturalist D. Andrew Saunders and I took for the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center on 24 July 1975, seems to be the first such nest reported in recent years. The presence of a Creeper's nest in the Forest was no surprise to local observers. Ruth Green, of Bellevue, had seen Brown Creepers carrying food during the nesting period in 1974 and in 1975, and Creepers were present during all of 1974. Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, of Hamburg, Iowa, reported that they and the John Otts of Lincoln, on 16 July 1974, "netted and banded a Brown Creeper. We recorded it as an after-hatching-year, sex unknown. The bird had a brood spot, so for our own records it was a female. Not knowing for sure whether both sexes incubate the eggs we sent it to the office in Maryland as an unknown as far as sex was concerned. The band number is 1320-58156." And in 1975, before the present nest was discovered, Clyde and Emma Johnson, of Omaha, spent may be half an hour watching a Brown Creeper bringing sticks to a nesting site under a piece of loose bark. Unfortunately they could not locate the tree on later visits to the Forest.

On 26 May 1975 I found the Johnsons by the stream in the Forest, a little below the beaver dam and the footbridge. (The "stick-carrying" had been seen farther upstream, and the mist-netting was done along the road, which crosses the stream even farther upstream.) While we were talking Mrs. Johnson pointed to a Brown Creeper rather close to us. It had food in its beak, and acted in an agitated manner. We moved away maybe 20 feet, and almost immediately the bird went under a piece of loose bark on a long-dead stub, presumably elm. Shortly thereafter a Creeper flew out, followed almost immediately by another. Mr. Johnson noted that one was carrying something white, presumably a fecal sac. There was no more activity for a little while, and I went on. About two to three hours later I came by the site again, but saw no activity, nor did I see any activity there on 8 June or later visits. At the time the nest was found I tried to look under the bark but it was too tightly curled against the trunk to see anything without moving the bark, and I didn't want to risk that. Had I tried to look under from the other side (right hand in the picture) I might have been more successful.

The writer pointing to the location of the nest, before any attempt had been made to remove the nest.

The nest was about six feet off the ground (but, as Bent says, under the lowest part of the loose bark). A one-inch thick vine of poison ivy ran over the outside of the piece, and here were two smaller vine under the piece, which was just part of a much larger sheet of bark on a dead elm (?). A lot of bulky material - much of it apparently grape bark - was below the typical crescent-shaped nest, made of much finer material which gave a smooth surface. It was long and narrow, much like a hammock. The nest tree was situated in the Missouri bottoms. Cottonwoods were the dominant trees in the area, and there was considerable undergrowth, both small trees and shrubs, and annual plants.

The *AOU Check-list* gives the breeding area of the Brown Creeper as extending to "southeastern Nebraska (Red Cloud, Lincoln, Omaha" Bent's *Life Histories*, in discussing the Creeper's use of knot-holes for nesting sites when loose bark is not available, quotes Professor Samuel Aughey's reports of finding nests in box-elder knot-holes. In June 1877 he found one "between Bellevue and Omaha, on the Missouri Bluffs" (roughly the same location as the present nest), and he found one later "on Middle Creek, 4 miles from Lincoln". He had found several others in the more typical location, under loose bark.

The photographs were taken by Chief Naturalist Saunders.

—*K. G. Cortelyou, Omaha*

The piece of bark pulled back to show the nest. The camera was pointing about 45° from the sun, and while the light was sufficient for the eye to see the nest easily, it was not enough for the camera. The "X" of the light sticks can be related to the same sticks in the photograph of the nest itself for orientation.

The inside of the piece of bark on which the nest was built. The nest itself is to the right of and slightly below the tops of the light-colored sticks on the left of the picture, above the rough material used as fill.

FIRST PLEISTOCENE RECORD OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE FROM THE CENTRAL GREAT PLAINS

A partial skelton of the Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (Linnaeus), consisting of two tibiotarsi with fibulae, three vertebrae, and the head of a rib (University of Nebraska State Museum 46005) was recovered near Rock Creek Lake, Dundy County, Nebraska, SW/4, SW/4, T2N, R39W. The specimen was collected from a buff to tan, fine, silty, unconsolidated sand of post-Wisconsin age. This sand fills a draw cut into and lying unconformably on Pliocene sediments of the Ash Hollow Formation, Ogallala Group. The end-Tertiary surface in this area is largely obscured by Pleistocene sand dunes which form part of the upper margin of the draw. The matrix from which the partial skeleton of *A. chrysaetos* was collected, four feet below the surface of the fill, is reworked from this dune deposit.

The tibiotarsi fall well within the size range of modern *Aquila chrysaetos*. Unfortunately, none of the elements Howard (1947) found useful in distinguishing the Pleistocene population of *Aquila chrysaetos* at Rancho La Brea from the modern form was present in the Nebraska specimen.

Though the Golden Eagle is still found in Nebraska today, the present fossil record is the first Pleistocene record of the genus from the central Great Plains, although Miller (1961) reported *A. chrysaetos* from a prehistoric site in North Dakota. To the south, the species has been recorded from two Pleistocene sites in Texas (Brodkorb, 1964).

I am grateful to Larry D. Martin, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, for his assistance in the identification of the eagle; and to John A. Breyer, Texas Christian University Department of Geology, who helped collect the specimen.

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NOTES

BOBWHITE IN KEARNEY. The center of a city the size of Kearney is hardly a place where one would expect to find Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). Yet on 11 July 1973, about 4:00 P.M., as I was doing some work in our garage, I heard two or three covey calls that sounded very close by. I went outside to investigate, but heard no further calls and I could not find the bird. About twenty minutes later, my wife having joined me in the meanwhile, the bird called again. We stopped our work at once, and just as we left the garage we saw the bird flush from our flower bed and fly westward. Then another Bobwhite gave an answering call to the northeast of us, probably a block away. Our final observation for the day came about 15 minutes later when we heard two birds calling in the block west of us.

On 21 July we had another surprise. I had opened the doors of our garage about 9:00 A.M. and returned to the house. When I went out again at 9:15 A.M. and approached the garage I was amazed to see a male Bob-

white sitting on the top of our car. After my wife and I watched it for a few minutes we decided not to disturb the bird, but to see how long it might stay. We checked on it every few minutes from our back door, from which it was plainly visible. It appeared to be asleep most of the time. It left about 10:00 A.M., when we were not watching, having stayed a full 45 minutes. It never made a sound during its stay, and we heard no calls either before it arrived or after it left.

These incidents caused us to recall that we had had this species in our neighborhood before. A search through my notes showed that on 3 October 1963 we saw a Bobwhite running back and forth on the ridgepole of the roof of our neighbor's house, giving its covey call. Several birds in the vicinity gave answering calls but remained out of sight. These birds apparently stayed in Kearney for several days, for on 7 October we heard a covey call to the west of us, not more than half a block away, and on 10 October I saw a Bobwhite near the Student Union of Kearney State College, roughly a mile west of our home. —*John C. W. Bliese, Kearney*

WHOOPING CRANES. Nine Whooping Cranes came down in bad weather on the Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area 18 April 1975. The area was dangerous because of an outbreak of avian cholera which had killed around 15,000 waterfowl this spring, and Federal and State wildlife officials didn't want to risk infection of the cranes. So they got permission to disturb the birds and succeeded in shooting them off the area in a day or so (using a plane, among other things). Apparently none caught the disease, for Canadian officials reported that the nine had all arrived at Wood Buffalo National Park. The disease typically would have manifested itself before they got there if they had caught it. The publicity given to the case contrasts with the previous policy of secrecy. In his talk at the 1975 Annual Meeting Gene Miller said that the secrecy policy had been abandoned and that in the future we could expect to learn about the presence of Whooping Cranes while they were still in the area.

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